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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Russian experiment in constitutionalism has broken down, at any rate for the moment. The Douma was dissolved by Imperial Ukase on 22nd inst., and a new Douma is ordered to be called for 7 March, 1907. The conditions of election to the new Douma have not yet been made public. M. Goremykin has resigned the Premiership, and M. Stolypin has accepted it in his place, retaining the Ministry of the Interior. M. Stolypin is not of the nobility; he comes from what we should call here the country gentleman class; a landowning squire. Manifestoes to the Russian nation have been issued, of course, both by the Tsar and by the ex-members of the Douma, who fled to Viborg in Finland to draw up *their* appeal. Either document is an ex-parte statement and should be received accordingly. In the meantime strict, perhaps stern, precautions are being taken to preserve order in S. Petersburg and throughout the Empire. At first there were fears of a general strike and grave disorders. But this nervousness seems to have calmed down. The revolutionaries do not, apparently, think the present moment opportune for demonstration.

Unexpected perhaps at the moment and therefore a little startling, dissolution sooner or later was regarded as certain by all who follow Russian affairs carefully. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the situation, it was rapidly becoming impossible. The Douma would not work with the Ministry and the Ministry could not ignore the Douma. The Douma wanted to be a parliament with supreme power, but constitutionally it was something quite other than that. It is arguable, no doubt, that in order to obtain a new régime giving

them this power, the Douma was justified in making the present compromise unworkable; just as the Irish Nationalists tried to make the British Parliament unworkable. But constitutionally there can be no doubt that the Ministry were under no duty to accept the views of the Douma, and the Tsar is acting fully within his legal right in dissolving. The Constitutional Democrats played into the hands of the Government by their agrarian manifesto, which was in effect a revolutionary pronouncement.

The Premier's refusal to promise that the Report of the Ridgeway Commission shall be laid on the table of the House of Commons in time for next Tuesday's discussion has served to intensify the misgiving with which the Government proposals are anticipated. If the Cabinet mean to take a perfectly straightforward course in regard to the new Transvaal Constitution, what end is to be advanced by methods of secrecy? The Lyttelton scheme was introduced and carried not, as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman attempted to show, on the sole authority of the Colonial Secretary, but, as Mr. Lyttelton pointed out, after several months' inquiry and public discussion in the Colonies. The mysterious airs the Government are giving themselves on the eve of the debate make it more than ever important that the long statement submitted on behalf of the Transvaal Progressives should be carefully studied, not only by members of Parliament but by the general public.

"The single issue", say Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and his colleagues, "is British supremacy, the sole security for it a working majority in the Transvaal—the key of South Africa". Het Volk aims at manhood suffrage which, by bringing in the youths and squatters on the farms who are known as bywoners, would ensure an extra three or four seats to the Dutch and render a British majority out of the question. Het Volk unfortunately is the only party which is certain to act solidly. There is of course the question of a Second Chamber. A nominated Upper House might

stand between the Dutch and the complete sacrifice of British supremacy. The Progressives write in ignorance of the intentions of the Government, but so many signs point to the possibility that the people whom we lately defeated in a war of their own beginning may be placed in a position of superiority that agitation and anxiety are inevitable. A grant of responsible Government to the Orange River Colony, the Progressives fear, would be an act of retrocession, costing us the loss of South Africa in a couple of years. If that is an extreme fear, the utterances of the Dutch leaders themselves must be held to justify it.

By extending the period of grace in order to give the rebels ample opportunity of surrendering, and by appointing a civil magistrate to investigate the charges against Royston's Horse, the Natal Government have given the best possible proof not only of their humanity but that they have nothing to conceal. Certain people are always prepared to believe that a Briton throws off his better nature when he becomes a colonist, but it is serious when a Bishop is ready to lend ear to these stories of atrocities. The Bishop has already materially modified the charge that five rebels were shot in camp, and has written to the Premier regretting that the allegations were given premature publicity by the Natal Government.

It is plainer than ever that the anti-Imperial section of the Liberal party has become dominant in the Cabinet as it is in the Ministerial majority in the Commons. Not content with reducing the army by some 20,000 men, the Government must now cut down the naval estimates at least as drastically. Mr. Robertson stated yesterday afternoon that instead of four "Dreadnoughts" only three are to be laid down; instead of five ocean-going destroyers only two, and the submarines will be reduced from twelve to eight. The Government's defence of their reduction of the army was the necessity of keeping up an invincible navy—a plea which undoubtedly has appealed to a large number of people; but now they have blown this defence into the air.

Tuesday in the Lords was devoted to another Army debate, in which Lord Roberts delivered a weighty speech. Mr. Haldane's scheme was subjected to much more detailed criticism than when it was cursorily considered in the Commons. Still it is to be feared that all this will influence the Government but little to moderate the unjustifiable scheme of reduction to which they have pledged themselves. More attention was devoted in the Upper House to the part the auxiliary forces are to take in Mr. Haldane's project; and from the evasive utterances of Lord Portsmouth and Lord Tweedmouth, it is evident that the Government's ideas on that head are sketchy in the extreme. Some of the speakers tried to find out the definite share of the military members of the Army Council in presenting the new scheme. But it was left uncertain whether the expert advisers approved of the principles involved, or whether, granting that reduction must take place, they considered that Mr. Haldane's plans were the best in the present painful circumstances.

Lord Roberts once more set forth clearly the case for compulsion. Very truly he laid down that the voluntary system was inevitable for the overseas army, but that the system as applied to home defence worked most unfairly. What happened was merely that the robust spirits charged themselves with a duty which the nation as a whole should undertake, but which the nation preferred to delegate to others, with the result that instead of being a free nation, we are, as Mr. Seaman told the City clerk so brilliantly last week in "Punch", really a little contemptible. Instead of having the voluntary defence we pride ourselves upon, we have merely an antiquated and objectionable system of mercenaries. Replying for the War Office Lord Portsmouth was reduced once more to the pitiful answer that the whole business was due to one of those mandates of which we have heard so much lately, the mandate to reduce at any cost.

On Report stage of the Education Bill Lord Robert Cecil moved a new clause empowering local authorities to allow denominational religious teaching to be given in the schools under their control. This of course means the repeal of the Cowper-Temple clause. The terms of Lord Robert's clause were not, perhaps, very happy as they would permit a local authority to confine the religious teaching to the views of one particular denomination, while the clause would not secure the right to teach to any denomination. Still it would have been a step in the right direction, as it at any rate might break up the Cowper-Temple tyranny. Mr. Balfour vigorously supported Lord Robert. Mr. Balfour's more and more clearly defined rejection of the Cowper-Temple clause is significant. In his case it does not spring from dissatisfaction with Cowper-Temple teaching; but from the argument of common equity. Doubly strong then is the case of those who feel very real dissatisfaction with Cowper-Temple religion. Of course, the Government rejected the clause. The Solicitor-General, however, must be congratulated on his unexpectedly courteous tone.

Another proposal, hardly perhaps seriously put forward by Mr. Pickersgill, was the re-transfer of the educational duties of the London County Council to a body appointed, to use a debating barbarism, "ad hoc". Dr. Macnamara, who has never forgiven the L.C.C. for not selecting him as one of the School Board members to survive on the Council, naturally supported the proposal with enthusiasm. Most of the ex-School Board members seem to retain a lingering affection for the old body, which perhaps explains Mr. Bridgeman's sympathy with Mr. Pickersgill. But he is certainly right in saying that the whole Council is not a fit instrument for the work of educational administration. Its education committee, we believe, is eminently fit for it; and the Council should meddle as little as possible. On Wednesday one more attempt was made by the Opposition, unsuccessfully of course, to turn "may" in Clause 4 into "shall". The Bill was reported and ordered to be read a third time on Monday next.

The Archbishop of Canterbury did good service when he called the attention of the House of Lords on Thursday to the religious teaching in undenominational schools. The return of syllabuses issued by County Councils gave him his text. Some of these look very well on paper but, as the Archbishop pointed out, the test is, how do they work? In many counties there is no inspection of religious teaching. Necessarily in such cases it is pushed aside to make room for inspected work. Teachers are human. A mass of confidential information obtained by the Archbishop went to show that in undenominational schools extreme slackness marked the so-called religious teaching. In an infant school the mistress was turning to account the Scripture time to the tune of a Highland jig. "Simple Bible teaching" this, is it not?

Mr. Bryce's view as to the best constituents for a Royal Commission is certainly peculiar, and unfortunately reflects his party bias. Lord Clonbrock did well in drawing attention on Monday to the composition of the body which is to inquire into the working of the Congested Districts Board in Ireland. Though the question is one which materially affects the landed interests, no representative of the Western landowners was invited to sit on the Commission, but two members of the Congested Districts Board itself and a Nationalist notorious for his violent rhetoric, were appointed. Such an inquiry, as Lord Lansdowne pointed out, had better have been conducted by gentlemen who were judicial and disinterested. As it is the constitution of the Commission, even with Lord Dudley as Chairman, can hardly inspire public confidence.

Cornwall has been in evidence this week by a death and by an election. The Bishop of Truro had long been ill; for some time indeed he had not been able to do the duties of his diocese. Probably Dr. Gott's best work was already done before he came to Truro.

Leeds will remember him longer than Cornwall. At Bodmin the Liberal, Mr. Freeman Thomas, was returned by a slightly decreased majority. At the General Election Mr. Agar-Robartes' majority was nearly a hundred votes greater. We had expected the Radical majority to be increased, for there are always a number of people who, irrespective of politics, support the party whose member was unseated on petition. They feel it is hard luck for a man to lose his seat for no personal fault of his own, and something of a sportsmanlike sentiment makes them vote for his party at the consequent bye-election. Not the less does Mr. Sandys deserve the Unionist party's thanks for the spirited fight he has made.

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference has been meeting, and feasting, in London this week; under the guidance of Lord Weardale and Mr. Cremer M.P. What these gentlemen think they are going to do beyond enjoying themselves in talking at large, and in conviviality, is not easy to see. Orating about the millennium and spinning dreams of disarmament is a harmless pastime enough, no doubt; but they must know perfectly well that they are all so many Benedicks, still talking and nobody marking them. The man who means to get things done is not a kongressbummler.

Maybe, however, they do not expect to be marked. Annual congresses of this kind apparently never do. A scientist smiles if you talk to him of the British Association yearly picnic advancing science; you might as well expect an Oxford or Cambridge Extension week to advance learning. These gatherings are always commended, but for doing something other than what they were called for. They are useful for the rendezvous: for the camaraderie they promote. Then why not do away with the speeches, when they would not give a British Premier an opportunity for blazing indiscretions? It is a great pity Lord Rosebery did not address the conference instead of Sir Henry. No one is so good as Lord Rosebery at taking seriously what is even less serious to him than to anyone else.

The examination of Mr. Crooks M.P. and Mr. George Lansbury wound up the Poplar Inquiry on Thursday. Their evidence, given at extreme length, has gone to show that under their direction the Poplar Board of Guardians became an almost model body. They found the treatment of the poor scandalous, and they metamorphosed the conditions so completely that both indoor and outdoor relief seems to have become increasingly popular. The outdoor paupers on January 1, 1905, were 2,080; on January 1, 1906, 7,350. Part of this increase it seems is due to prevailing bad times, part to the fact that the poor were driven into Poplar by various causes from other districts. It was no doubt in the spirit of pure philanthropy on somebody's part that Poplar paid 2s. 11d. a yard for sheeting which Bethnal Green bought for 1s. 6d., and that the cost of officers' rations went up from £1,600 in 1896 to £5,477 in 1905. Mr. Lansbury says the Government auditors passed the items without question. That is a point to which attention will no doubt be given by the Local Government Board Inspector in his Report. Mr. Lansbury further suggests that the contract system should be abolished; but was the system or its administration at fault?

The Plaistow land-grabbers are a waggish lot, and the West Ham authorities have played up to their humour in royal style. Programmes sold at a penny apiece detail events arranged for at Triangle Camp. Among these are an Obstacle Race and a Tug of War between the unemployed and the West Ham Town Council. On Thursday what is called "the fun" was expected to begin when a representative of the Council was sent with a strong body of police to serve notice of ejectment. The police assured the squatters that they had no intention of interfering except to preserve the peace and the Councillor handed in his notice with the intimation apparently that it was not meant seriously. He contributed a shilling to the Camp Funds, was hailed as "one of the best" and went away with a polite written refusal to comply with the

Corporation's request. The courage of the squatters rose in proportion as it was realised that nothing was to be done to drive them off the cabbage patch. Whether the Council intend to take action or not at some future date nobody knows.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Motor-cars was issued on Wednesday. Its two chief features are the recommendations that motors shall be more stiffly taxed; and that the twenty-mile maximum shall be abolished, and, instead, a twelve-mile maximum fixed for villages and dangerous spots—if the local authority desire—and that the public in future shall trust to the ordinary law against furious driving. The Chief Commissioner of Police however dissents from this and so does another commissioner, Mr. H. C. Munro. They consider that there has not been enough experience of the working and effect of the existing law to justify change yet. Authority like this is not to be set aside lightly, but it is hard to see how the twenty-mile regulation can be regarded as anything but a complete failure. True, the ordinary law against furious driving may fail too: it will be often very hard to decide on the bench what is and what is not furious or dangerous driving; but no third plan so far has been suggested.

On the whole the Commissioners are not harsh towards the motor-drivers. Clearly they have weighed the evidence very deliberately. They are anxious to do nothing to injure a large and promising industry. The recommendation for the removal of the speed limit will be welcomed by most drivers and owners of motors; but the statement that motors should be more heavily taxed is not so agreeable. The Commissioners suggest "a consolidated scale of duties", and would differentiate between trade motors and pleasure motors. But it may be argued pleasure motors are after all trade motors; if you tax them more highly so much the worse for the people who are employed in the motor industry. The Commissioners also deal with the question of dust raised by motors and the state of the roads. They consider the roads ought to be improved. All the Commissioners object to the term police-traps: they think "police controls" would be a better description. "Police controls" is quite a novelty. Dr. Murray would certainly have seized it for his volume on C in the New Oxford Dictionary: perhaps he will be able to squeeze it in under P in the volume now being prepared.

Lord Montagu, as the representative of motor interests, and Lord Kilmorey, as the chairman of an institution which suffers from the Metropolitan juggernaut, necessarily take widely divergent views on the motor-omnibus question. Whilst Lord Montagu admits there are defects to be remedied he is assured the motor-omnibus has already become most useful to mankind, which no doubt is quite true. Lord Kilmorey on the other hand, in his complaint at Bow Street on Monday, gave an instance of the way in which the vehicle has become a cause not merely of annoyance but of actual suffering. To the patients in certain wards of Charing Cross Hospital the rattle and rumble and smell of the motor-omnibuses in King William Street are a matter of the most serious moment. We hope that Lord Kilmorey will take the magistrate's advice and appear before him with evidence as to the nuisance, so that a summons may be granted.

Mr. Jacoby may go down to fame as the Whip of a House of Commons party as extinct to-day as the great auk, Mr. Labouchere's "New Radicals"; but he will deserve to be remembered with gratitude for his work in a far better cause—abating the baleful noises of London. He has worked for years against the "grinder who serenely grindest" to the public discomfort and pain, and now he is agitating once more against street noises generally. At a conference in the House of Commons on Wednesday, it was decided to draft a bill for next session, giving powers to the local authorities to deal with such street nuisances. We are glad to see that Sir Henry Primrose, whom nobody can accuse of faddism or unpractical politics, is

strongly in favour of legislation. He declared at the conference that no other civilised community suffered such street nuisances as London does.

Of course there are robustious folk who like a din all day and half the night in the streets, as there are others whose eyes are delighted by the advertisements of quack pills and soaps that disfigure the fields along the railway lines, or whose lungs thrive on a yellow or black London fog. But a strong public opinion is forming against these modern barbarisms. Medical men decidedly favour the cause of quiet. Several well-known doctors took part in the discussion on Wednesday and made practical suggestions. Unless something is done before long we may all have to adopt Herbert Spencer's plan and use ear-stoppers. He used to say that he could barricade himself absolutely by this method from displeasing noises, chiefly the talk of bores.

To prevent further rumour, the executors have made public the terms of Mr. Beit's will. His public bequests are on the scale that most people expected. They may stand beside those of Rhodes. Mr. Beit has left nearly a million and three-quarters to the public: of this sum one million two hundred thousand is to form a fund for developing railways in Africa. London hospitals get forty thousand pounds and South African universities get about a quarter of a million. Mr. Beit has left one of his famous Reynolds pictures, "Mrs. Boone and her Daughter", to Germany. The other, "Lady Cockburn and her Daughters", he gives to the National Gallery. This, we believe, is the great picture which drew from Reynolds the boast that he would go down to posterity on the hem of Lady Cockburn's gown.

Arthur Tomson, some of whose works are now being exhibited at the Baillie Gallery in Baker Street, as a writer and as a painter had the faculty of losing himself in the beauties of nature. This abandonment brought a note of unforced tenderness and sincerity into all his work, but it also accounts for his not making a deeper impression upon the general public. The painter of pictures like "Winter", and the marvellous pastel of larkspurs half lost among the shadows of the big trees, cared more for the beauties he discovered among his surroundings than for the ordinary processes of picture-making. He seemed to shrink from setting up his art as a kind of rival to nature—to be always trembling lest he should be doing some injustice to his subject-matter. He had little of what has been called the "confident effrontery" of the born artist.

Turning to the Dutch Gallery in Grafton Street, one feels, in looking at the water-colour drawings by Sir William Eden, that there is a satisfaction in meeting a distinct personality when the salient points that make it stand out from the crowd are of the pleasant kind. Every one of his water-colours is clearly an individual expression. Some may be slight, others complete, but all spring unmistakably from the same source, and their individuality is unaffected by the surroundings in which they were painted. In fact Sir William Eden's catholic sympathy is equally stirred by the joy of the Italian sun or the poetic melancholy of an English wintry haze. If Sir William were less of a society man, he would be considered more of an artist, for artist he is.

The National Liberal Club stood Sir F. C. Gould a dinner on Wednesday, and Sir Rufus Isaacs proposed his health in a gay speech. We are not quite sure who the "Ronaldson" may be, whom, according to the "Times" report of this pleasant affair, he mentioned as a predecessor of Sir Frank—the title recalls another Sir Frank, also a born caricaturist. Did he mean—or did he really say—"Rowlandson"? If so, one is a trifle doubtful of the happiness of the comparison. In caricature Rowlandson was, well, at times a trifle broad. It was Mr. Austin Dobson, we think, who described some of the women who figure in his sketches as "overnourished". "Gilray" in the same report is probably Gillray. These however are trifles so long as we get the name of Gould itself—sans peur et sans reproche—all right.

THE TSAR'S STROKE

IT is clear that in his own estimation Nicholas II. has not ceased to represent the old régime of the Tsars of ancient Russia. In his manifesto addressed primarily to the people (the peasantry), and not to their quasi-representatives, the intelligencia and their followers, he expresses his sad disappointment in the results of his earnest attempt to reach their real and absolute needs. Yet in spite of his disappointment, he declares himself to be firmly convinced that Russia must be represented by a National Assembly. In convoking a new Douma within seven months of the crisis, the Emperor's intention is evidently to give the nation time to recover from the shock of the dissolution; to provide an interval sufficient for reflection and for analysis of the Douma's mischievous policy, and to convert the half-hearted to loyalty. "We believe"—so runs the final clause of the Tsar's manifesto—"that heroes in thought and action will appear, and that thanks to their assiduous endeavours, the glory of Russia will continue to shine". The employment of the word heroes (*bogatiuri*) is especially significant, recalling as it does the ancient chronicles of Tsardom. By its manifesto addressed direct to the people calling on them to ignore and oppose the Government's agrarian Bill, which had been approved and promulgated by order of the Tsar, the Douma has violated the fundamental laws of the Empire and committed an act of high treason. Such conduct would have brought to the members of most deliberative assemblies very unpleasant consequences. The Tsar has chosen the more lenient and dignified course of merely treating his first parliament as an unpractical and inexperienced body, which has much misinterpreted its functions. From the very first the Douma has exceeded the limit of the powers vested in it as an advisory Council. Its chief accomplishment during its entire sitting has been to assist in fanning into flames the smouldering embers of insurrection at the most vulnerable centres of the Empire. Its interpellation of the Cabinet Ministers was a farce, accompanied by personal insult which would not have been tolerated by the most democratic assembly of the West. The newly fledged electors at the polls had been previously persuaded that only a constituent assembly would give the peasants free land, and the army was assured that any and every concession would be granted to the soldiers, including the right of selecting their own officers and commanders. Whilst accusing the Government of being the agents provocateurs in the riots and massacres of the Jews, the Douma entirely left out of sight similar acts of pillage and destruction committed on the estates of the landowners by peasants whom the Douma itself had goaded on by rash promises and covert encouragement. The consequence of the Douma's mistaken policy has been that it has signally failed in everything that was expected of it. Had it been permitted to continue its tactics, it would have succeeded in raising in itself a barrier between Tsar and people more formidable than that of the defunct bureaucracy. Nevertheless, thanks to prejudice and to the ex-parte sources through which the bulk of the news from Russia reaches England and the Continent, the Douma, as was certain, has managed to enlist the sympathy of the outside world and the pharisaical interference of political busybodies in this country.

The mistake that British public opinion is evidently making is in taking the Douma to be a parliament like our Lords and Commons. It is to be hoped however, now that it is dissolved, that events in the country will testify to the soundness of Count Witte's original idea of convoking the first Douma as a safety-valve for the escape of the over-pressure of revolutionary excitement. Of the nine or more distinct parties which had constituted the Douma, the Constitutional Democrats from the beginning formed the strongest and most reliable element. They might perhaps have saved the situation had they shown more inclination to encourage and support the Government in passing some of the urgently needed measures of reform. It was soon apparent that they were not a united party, but divided into three sections. Their Right was composed of a limited number of leading men in the nation, not wanting in well-balanced

intelligence, tact and political capability; their Centre consisted chiefly of passive resisters. The majority, the Left, soon exhibited the qualities of the revolutionary free lance, and before long succeeded in cowing and coercing by their noisy clamour and menacing insistence the whole party. Finally they obtained complete control of the debates, and eventually joined the extreme Socialist revolutionary section of the Assembly. Thus the whole work of the session appeared to be rapidly converging towards an impasse, with anarchy waiting in the background. The Tsar grasped the situation, seized the reins of government himself, dissolved the Douma, and broke up his ultra-bureaucratic Cabinet, whose cohesion had become hopeless. It is true that the Government might have forestalled the Douma by hastening measures of reform for which the country was panting, such for instance as a fair and equitable solution of the agrarian problem; a scheme of subsidised migration for relieving the distressed peasantry; a workmen's compensation and economic-improvement Act. Its slow, lethargic manner of dealing with these vital questions of the day, and its eleventh-hour proposals to meet emergencies have undoubtedly contributed to bring about the present débâcle. The present executive is now apparently endeavouring to retrieve some of the mistakes of the past. The Cabinet is only partially reorganised, the desire being, it is said, to give office to a certain number of eligible members of the Constitutional Democrats, who have now formed a "party of pacific renovators", the leaders of which are Count Heydem, Prince Lvof and M. Stahovitch. Judging from the results of the last elections, the new Douma will evidently have to be chosen on a changed electoral law, which, it seems to us, should include direct representation and secret ballot. Direct representation or individual voting might minimise the possibility of cohesion and collusion between the various revolutionary groups, and give a freer hand to the individual elector, who at the same time would be protected by secret ballot from molestation.

Meanwhile Russia is more than ever in danger of falling into the coils of her own Revolutionaries, who are encouraged and materially supported by similar organisations throughout the Western world. Firm repressive measures at this juncture have been indispensable. And according to the latest news, the decisive action of the authorities seems to have had a salutary effect. There is nothing in the disturbed condition of the country to show that the army is politically rebellious. All military insubordination and signs of mutiny have had their source in economic questions; the demands of the peasantry, in the agrarian riots, have also remained strictly economic. Politics is a subject beyond the comprehension, the desire of comprehension, of the peasant. So long as the army remains in the bulk loyal and the peasant rests in his present indifference with regard to politics, there is no danger, as our alarmists would have it, of a general revolution such as convulsed France.

The whole situation, as far as it is possible to judge from the meagre accounts available, is distinctly hopeful. It is certainly reassuring that the middle class—which is no longer an insignificant item politically—whilst undoubtedly in sympathy with a representative government, is at the same time clearly demonstrating that it had no sympathy with the late Douma. The Russian middle class conception of a Douma is identical with the views held by the Tsar. They have faith in the institution, but not in the men who have proved themselves so insufficiently prepared to fulfil the duties of a Russian idea of adequate reform. What will next happen, of course no one can foretell with any degree of certainty. In conclusion, we must bear in mind one probable and serious outcome of Russia's transitional period. Were a general revolution to ensue, under modern conditions of international politics, in a country occupying a sixth part of the world, England and all the other Western States would eventually feel its effects. The dissolution of the Douma is an appeal to the solidarity of the world.

MR. MORLEY'S PRUDENCE.

IN distinction, weight, and eloquence Mr. Morley's Indian Budget speech was memorable. The occasion was not an ordinary one. No doubt the cautious manner in which Mr. Morley has handled Indian questions has encouraged the belief that he would not permit the interests of India to be imperilled by rash experiments. In "officialism" he knows how to abate the "optimism" of the reformer. Still, the first official declaration of its general policy towards India by a Radical Ministry was naturally awaited with some anxiety. It is reassuring to find the Indian Secretary quite alive to the gravity of the issues and the disastrous consequences which may follow any false step for this country, whose dominant policy has, he declares, become Asiatic, and whose Asiatic interests are centred in its occupation of India. At the outset Mr. Morley found himself face to face with the most important of all problems which concern the relations of the two countries. He had to deal with a motion to place the salary of the Secretary of State on the Estimates and thereby bring the discussion of Indian administration at any or every point into the field of party politics. It is to the credit of his judgment and courage that he promptly and firmly rejected the proposition, though it had the support of various groups of his own party. Sir Henry Fowler came to the rescue with a strong speech. But when the question was pressed to a division it was the action of the Conservative members who voted with Mr. Morley that saved the Government from defeat. Indeed, his policy at many points received its most cordial support from the Opposition, while his own followers looked at it askance.

The short time allotted to Indian affairs was a standing grievance while the Conservatives were in office. It was reserved for a Radical minister for the first time to apply the closure to this annual debate after enduring from his friends a long and dreary re-hash of familiar fallacies. The position is not without humour but it presents unpleasant and significant possibilities in the future. Mr. Keir Hardie shows himself but a poor champion of the English operative when he proposes to place Indian affairs in the hands of agitators who lent their aid to a scheme to boycott English manufactures—not with the respectable motive of protecting home industries, for they left foreign imports untouched—in order to weaken or frighten the British Government in India. A curious blindness to the real interests of India seems to fall on those who wish to remove administrative control from the "men on the spot" and make it the sport of party politicians at home. They fail to see the danger that when the interests of a powerful party in England come in conflict with the interests of India it is India that would be most likely to suffer. An example may be found in the present debate. The labour leader, while demanding self-government for the Indians, would impose restrictions on labour in the cotton mills of India in order to enable English manufacturers to compete with them to greater advantage.

A welcome feature of Mr. Morley's speech was the absence of elaborate statistics. By a few well-chosen figures he demonstrated the growing prosperity of the country and the unusual strength of its financial position. Moreover he was able to present them in a manner which vindicated the Indian Government and even to defend the "sun-dried bureaucrat" whom he found on trial to be "a man eminent for experience, for knowledge and for responsibility, faithfully and honourably discharged". Few perhaps have realised that 72 per cent. of the total national indebtedness is represented by money invested in railways and canals—that the entire ordinary debt is only £60,000,000 and that the profits derived from these investments, after meeting all charges for working and interest, are enough to pay four times over the interest on this sum. This, says Mr. Morley, is a striking fact. Discreetly silent about opium, he has fixed a hostile eye on what remains of the salt revenue. Another aspect of the question would be disclosed by a study of the measures which brought the manufacture and distribution of salt under State control with a consequent and progressive

reduction of price till it can now be bought at an average of something under three-farthings a pound—not much above the retail price of household salt in London shops. Of this price the tax represents a farthing. What becomes of the statement made in the House, without correction, that the tax is sixteen times the value of the commodity? It is almost the only obligatory tax which falls on the masses; its indirect and moderate character make it suitable to the conditions of the country. The income-tax on the other hand from its exotic and inquisitorial nature is highly unpopular and offends against all the recognised canons of taxation. It was the latest imposed and should be the first to go. Mr. Morley dealt guardedly with the question of military expenditure. He still seeks more light and prudently defers any definite pronouncement till he knows the worst that can be brought against the views he is personally inclined to favour. For the present we are left to imagine that they are. One spectre however is laid—for the moment. Experience has justified the final decision of the "vexed and turbid question of army organisation".

Mr. Morley's announcement of future policy in the matter of general administration is guarded almost to the point of vagueness. The East is awakening. In India he discerns the growth of a "new spirit". The spirit, some will hold, is old enough: it is the degree and form of its expression that are changed. The time, he holds, has however come for an intrepid step in advance—an extension of self-government is the line of progress indicated by our constitutional notions. But Mr. Morley, it may be inferred, means to proceed cautiously—not by the crude methods of Lord Ripon in transferring important powers to artificially created bodies unqualified to exercise them—but by the larger association of Indians with Europeans in the higher deliberative assemblies. This is the safer method. It would be absurd to say that Asiatics cannot govern India, for Asiatics have governed it; though they were not usually Asiatics of Indian origin. But they governed according to Asiatic ideas and methods, and those were generally to treat India as a conquered country in military occupation. If India is to be effectively governed according to European conceptions and methods, it is essential that not merely the supreme councils but the headships of the great administrative units and charges shall be controlled by experienced European officers, supported by a sufficient staff of the same race in training to qualify for succession as those at the head of affairs drop off. That is the irreducible minimum for safety and efficiency. With a superior Civil Service, which includes also a proportion of natives, amounting to about one thousand effective and non-effective members to stiffen, direct and control the public service of a whole continent, that minimum seems to have been already reached.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S INDISCRETION.

IF it had been Lord Salisbury who said to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, "*La Douma est morte, vive la Douma*," it would have been possible to suggest in excuse that the speaker, not thinking the occasion serious, did not expect to be taken seriously himself. It would have been a piece of thoughtless cynicism, regrettable and not excusable. But it would hardly have occurred to anyone that Lord Salisbury could intend publicly to take sides in the acute domestic difference of a great and friendly Power. Lord Salisbury had too healthy and too well known a dislike of interfering with other people's business to wish to give to the world, when he spoke in public as Prime Minister, his views on our neighbours' private affairs. He held very strongly that it was enough for the British Government to look after the affairs of Britain. What form of government other countries might have was their affair and not ours. The internal politics of a foreign Power were no proper subject for discussion by a British statesman unless, or except in so far as, they came in touch with and affected British interests. No one can say that the difference between the Tsar and the Douma affects the

interests of this country. If it does, it can only be in the sense that the disturbing influence of a revolution in Russia could hardly be confined within Russian borders. Yet Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman did not hesitate in addressing the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to identify himself with the members of the dissolved Douma, one party in the political struggle now going on in Russia. "*La Douma est morte—vive la Douma*", cried the British Prime Minister; and the assembly rose, members waving their hands towards the representatives of the Douma, and cheering vociferously. It was quite evident how his audience took Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's words. In view of this demonstration it is useless to plead that Sir Henry was merely endorsing the Tsar's own pronouncement—merely recognising that the present Douma was dead, and that another would rise up. A mere statement of facts known to everybody present would have been a very otiose performance, and the Conference rightly interpreted the words quite otherwise. Sir Henry is too good a speaker to bore his audience with what to them would be the merest platitude. They took his words as a pronouncement of the British Prime Minister in favour of the dissolved Douma as against the Tsar—hence the enthusiasm they called forth. Sir Henry knew perfectly well how his words would be interpreted by the Russian representatives, and by the rest of the Conference, and he knew that the sentiment would be extremely popular where he was speaking. For the sake of a little cheap applause the Prime Minister did not hesitate to commit a breach of diplomatic manners, which amounted to an insult to the Government of a friendly Power.

In his time Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has been a very severe censor of Mr. Chamberlain for his unfortunate "long spoon" speech. But Mr. Chamberlain was at any rate not prime minister when he used that phrase, he was not speaking to an international audience, nor at a critical moment of intense friction. It does not add to the dignity of Sir Henry's indiscretion, though it largely accounts for it, that he knew he was more or less safe in committing it. The Russian Government is not at this moment in a position to take a verbal insult too seriously. By the bulk of his own party such plain speaking, inconsiderate of the feelings of certain foreign statesmen they dislike, and reflecting on a monarch, would be relished exceedingly: while the Unionists, owing to prejudice against any Russian Government, would not be quick to resent and expose his indiscretion as they would be if it affected any other ruler than the Tsar. Even if Sir Henry were to champion the Reichstag against the Kaiser, Conservatives would not take the offence so quietly. Some of the foreign papers, we observe, commend Sir Henry for his courage: we do not see where courage came in: indifference there was. But foreigners have no need to be concerned for the correctitude and good manners of our Prime Minister. They are quite entitled to be pleased at his making a pronouncement in favour of their view of the situation.

It is of course natural that the multitude should find difficulty in appreciating the importance of diplomatic courtesy and reticence in the speech of public men. Taking sides eagerly in a foreign affair, the crowd are naturally pleased when a conspicuous public man openly endorses their views. They are not sensitive to the point of international good manners, and they cannot gauge the dangers hidden in these indiscretions. We have no doubt that at the time the affair was at its height Lord Salisbury would have gained immense popularity, if he had made a violent attack on the French Government and on the courts that condemned Dreyfus. The public would not have looked beyond a pronouncement in favour of right, as they would have felt it to be. But anyone trained to think on international matters must shudder at the very idea. The very fact that it is easy to get popularity at the expense of foreign Governments should make a decent public man the more on his guard against the temptation. Perhaps the strongest feeling stirred by the Prime Minister's indiscretion is thankfulness that Sir Edward Grey is Foreign Secretary and not Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. To no one

has Sir Henry in making this lapse shown less consideration than to his own careful and correctly-speaking colleague.

PROGRESS IN THE STUDY OF CANCER.

BEFORE we attempt to discuss the progress in the study of cancer set forth in Dr. Bashford's Fourth Annual Report, presented to the general meeting of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, on Wednesday last, one or two subsidiary matters may be disposed of. After a long dispute, which led to the destruction of much valuable material, the authorities of the General Post Office have at last accepted the assurances of those competent to decide, and now permit the forwarding by post of the perfectly innocuous specimens which, hitherto, they had withheld. Scientific opinion, after all, has some weight, although the official mind is slow in accepting it. Next, we have to notice that a large number of empirical remedies were forwarded to the laboratory to be tested, but that these in every instance completely failed to arrest or to modify the experimental growths of cancer. Probably the explanation of any faith being placed in such remedies may be found in another part of the report. Although cancer is still an incurable complaint, it is established that in a small proportion of cases, both normal and experimental, cancerous growths are spontaneously absorbed. A third subsidiary matter relates to the suggested affinity between cancerous growths and normal reproductive tissues. In the reproductive tissues of animals and plants there is a phase in the development of the generative cells which presents extremely striking microscopic characters, and which, from its universal occurrence in the living world, has been thought to have a fundamental biological significance. About three years ago there was some reason to suppose that a similar phase occurred in cancerous tissue. These observations appeared to lead to a mode of discriminating between malignant tumours and what are termed "benignant" or harmless growths. The parallel between cancerous tissue and reproductive tissue was still more interesting because striking features in the case of the peculiar reproductive tissue are its unlimited power of growth and its parasitic, corroding nature. If cancerous tissue were normal tissue that had acquired the habit of the reproductive, a new and definite line of experimental inquiry was suggested, and the hope of controlling the factors that stimulated the new mode of growth was great. Unfortunately, however, further scrutiny has not borne out the parallel.

The statistical inquiries made by Dr. Bashford and his assistants have now clearly established the fact that cancer occurs throughout the world almost independently of race or climate, or special habit. There seemed at first to be an indication of greater frequency of cancer of internal organs amongst the civilised populations of towns than in remoter districts or amongst lower races, but it now appears to be the case that the difference in the figures is due merely to difference in facilities for collecting information. The cases of internal cancer discovered are precisely in proportion to the opportunities of making careful search for them. A remarkable conclusion, suggested in former reports, is now becoming more certain; the frequency of cancer increases most strikingly with the age of the tissue or the individual. This parallelism between age and liability to the spontaneous occurrence of cancer appears to hold good not only for man but for all animals, and is certainly of great significance.

The experimental work made possible by the discovery of spontaneous malignant tumours in lower animals, and of the modes of transplanting such growths, has been specialised in three directions. Some progress has been made in the study of individual susceptibility to cancer. It took four years and the examination of 100,000 mice to discover 28 cases of spontaneous cancer, the disease apparently being so rare that only one case was found in 3,500 mice. On the other hand, experimental inoculation succeeded in one out of every 36 cases in which the operation was performed. In other words, susceptibility to cancer is

much more common than the spontaneous appearance of cancer. The investigators have begun to obtain the material for study of the relation of cancer or of susceptibility to cancer with inheritance, for they have succeeded in breeding from cancerous mice.

The results of the current year's work on hereditary transmission of the disease or obnoxiousness to it will be awaited with extreme interest. Experimental analysis of the growth of cancer has shown that there are striking differences between the rates of growth of different tumours at different times and in different animals. The growths which were most malignant were not found to be necessarily most readily transplanted or most capable of continued growth. It appears to be an inherent property of cancerous tissue to wax and wane in its vitality, and its vitality and malignancy are to a certain extent independent. By cultivating portions of the same growth in a large number of mice, the factor of the different susceptibilities of the different mice can be excluded, and the abstract natural history of the growth itself can be studied. The director of the investigations has great hopes that knowledge as to the genesis of cancer may be reached by the continued observation of these fluctuations of its growth.

The third special field of inquiry has included attempts to modify the growth of cancer. As was foreshadowed in the Report last year, the results of exposure to radium have been negative. On the other hand it has been found possible to make mice so highly unsuitable to the growth of cancer that on subsequent inoculation tumours do not develop. When mice have been inoculated a large proportion spontaneously get rid of the tumours, and such mice, having recovered from experimental cancer, are immune for a considerable time against further infection. It is obvious, that if the progress of the work reveals some form of tumour or modification of a tumour not in itself malignant, but akin to malignant growths in the nature of the reaction induced by its presence in the tissues, a great step will have been made. The treatment of cancer will be developed on the lines that have yielded such successful results in other diseases.

Already there are some indications that success may be obtained. One particular specimen of spontaneous cancer, when used for inoculation, yielded a remarkably large proportion of cases in which spontaneous absorption or recovery took place. The mice in these cases of recovery were protected, although to a lesser degree, against inoculation with tumours from another source. Although the two tumours differed histologically and in their aptitude for transplantation, the conditions necessary for their growth were so similar that recovery from one protected against subsequent inoculation with the other. Finally, an injection of healthy blood in some cases protected mice against subsequent inoculation.

The writer of the report is most careful to point out that the experiments so far do no more than indicate the possibility of rendering normal mice unsuitable for the growth of experimental cancer. They have not yet enabled the investigators to arrest the growth of experimental tumours with certainty, still less to control the disease when it occurs spontaneously. It is most prudent to warn the public against any premature confidence. But it is equally right that we should congratulate the founders and the staff of the Imperial Research Fund on the striking progress that has been made. A vast amount of new knowledge has been acquired, and a number of guesses and misleading suggestions have been put out of court. Above all, the possibility of experimental inquiry has been established and its methods have been elaborated. There is now going on a continuous, systematic investigation and observation of the natural history of the disease under laboratory methods which make it possible to study the behaviour of the same tumour at different stages of its individual history and under the stimulation of different living environments. Whether the end is to be a brilliant, transforming discovery, or a slow approach to the goal, the results of the four years of inquiry have already more than justified the reasonable hopes of those who have been following the progress of the investigation.

THE CITY.

THE stock markets have been in a very disturbed condition during the past week, but the very violence of the break in prices on Monday and Tuesday caused by the misgivings as to the effect of the dissolution of the Russian Douma has probably been an important influence in the swing towards higher prices which has characterised the closing days. But the satisfactory feature is the fact that, after making due allowance for the swing of the pendulum to which we allude, it does appear that the "House" generally is shaking itself free from the influence of Russian affairs, and this improvement in the domestic tone of the Stock Exchange has apparently communicated itself to the outside operators who have shown a greater inclination to take an interest than has been apparent for some time past. The recovery in prices has been to a large extent assisted by the technical position of the account in a number of securities which have been evidently oversold by the "bear" section and the scramble that has taken place among these gentlemen to cover their sales by the purchase of stock is responsible for the rapid advance in certain shares, more particularly those on the South African market. It must not be understood from these remarks that the real public have re-entered the markets, for we do not believe this is the case. There has been a real and gratifying—whilst at the same time most mysterious—change of sentiment, but if the Russian influence can be effectively shaken off there is every fair reason to anticipate a development of this altered feeling into something of a more substantial character.

The news on Monday undoubtedly looked very gloomy, and Russian bonds collapsed, the recent loan being quoted at one time as low as 12½ per cent. discount. London waited on Paris and although the Bourse was in a very agitated condition nothing sensational occurred, the big banks having evidently not yet lost control over the small investor. The later telegrams from Russia have been more reassuring, and a recovery has taken place in the quotation for Russian securities although the current prices are still below the closing figures of last week. Whatever may be in store for Russia, it must not be overlooked that France holds about £400,000,000 of Russian obligations and Germany about £250,000,000: it is therefore obviously the interest of these countries to use the full strength of the enormous influence represented by these figures, diplomatic and financial, to prevent a positive disaster so far as the power of Russia to meet her foreign obligations is concerned.

It is interesting to note that at a time when a steady factor was urgently needed it should have been supplied by the despised South African market; this has been one of the main contributory causes for the improvement. Owing to the anxiety of the "bears" the pace has been rather forced, and we do not look for the maintenance of improvement in prices at the rate which exists at the time of writing. If, however, the statement which is to be made in Parliament on Tuesday should prove to be satisfactory on the all-important point of an assurance of British supremacy—or even if the new constitution goes no further than to avoid undue truckling to the Boers—we believe that a steady improvement will take place in the sound dividend-paying mining companies which have unquestionably been unduly depressed. We do not look for any return to the inflated prices of the old days—the public has learnt its lesson in that respect we think, but there are still sensible folk who are willing to buy on a reasonable industrial basis, and who do not necessarily regard a security as tainted because it happens to be connected with South African gold.

During the past week four of the leading joint-stock banks have held their annual meetings. Taken generally the speeches of the respective chairmen have not been unsatisfactory in regard to the forecast for the future. The question as to the provision for a larger gold reserve was naturally referred to, but whilst there is a general inclination to formulate some scheme providing for the possible danger which is recognised

to exist by all bankers, there is no diminution in the timidity which evidently prevents the matter assuming a practical form.

Subscriptions are invited on account of the City of Tokyo 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan for £1,500,000, issued at par under the authority of the Municipal Assembly of Tokyo, sanctioned by the Imperial Japanese Government, and secured both as to principal and interest by a first charge of Yen 974,500 per annum (equal at the exchange of 2s. 0½d. to £99,480 4s. 2d.) on revenues to be specially set aside in each year for the purpose.

NEW INSURANCE LAWS IN AMERICA.

EACH of the United States has a Legislature and an Insurance Department. In most of the important States the insurance laws are altered or added to every year. The theory seems to be that insurance affairs are looked after by Government departments, and that consequently policyholders need not trouble themselves about independent criticism or investigation. The complete failure of Government control was abundantly demonstrated last year. The remedy suggested is more Government control. The State of New York has been especially busy in passing new laws, which for the most part promise to produce all sorts of unexpected results while failing to promote the welfare of the policyholders. Several of the new regulations of the State of New York conflict with those of other States of the Union, and as nearly all the States have retaliatory laws there is every prospect that companies having their origin, say, in Massachusetts will be prohibited from doing business in New York because they either cannot or will not conform to the new laws. In such an event, insurance companies having their origin in New York would be prevented by the retaliatory laws from doing business in Massachusetts. This state of things would not benefit anybody, least of all the policyholders.

The chief thing demanded in the interests of policyholders in the United States is that insurance matters should be allowed to settle down as soon as possible into proper working order. The distrust that was aroused by the scandals has not been allayed by the overwhelming evidence that has been produced of the solvency of the companies and the reality of the reforms; while certain of the new laws have provided an admirable opportunity for unscrupulous agitators to feather their own nests at the expense of the policyholders. One of the new regulations requires that lists of policyholders shall be filed with the insurance department. It is considered immaterial that many policyholders regard assurance as a private affair and object to such publicity. It is also thought immaterial that such a list offers an excellent opportunity to unscrupulous agents to endeavour to twist policies from one company to another for the benefit of the agent and to the detriment of the policyholder. Several men with shady records are eagerly seizing the opportunity to try to induce the more foolish among the policyholders to form protection committees and elect trustees to wreck the companies as far as possible for the benefit of the agitators.

Yet another new law which seems distinctly at variance with the progress of life assurance is that policies without participation in profits may not be issued after this year and that all policies must be on the standard form prescribed by the legislature. This law against non-profit policies makes impossible the continuance of some of the best insurance contracts in existence. The very low rates of premium charged and the liberal surrender values guaranteed, cause some of the non-profit policies of the American offices to be particularly attractive.

These new laws, most of which are foolish, and a few of which are useful, were passed in a panic by the New York legislature, and if they are not withdrawn it seems inevitable that the inhabitants of the State of New York will be debarred from buying the best policies issued by the New York companies at the present time, and will also be prevented from assuring in some of the first-class companies from other States or countries which will be turned out of New York for

failing to comply with the law. Some of the smaller American companies are economically managed, obtain a very high rate of interest upon their funds, and hold reserves which are greatly in excess of the requirements of any insurance department. The result is that they give excellent returns to their policyholders, and while to such companies it will not matter much that they cannot operate in New York, it will be a distinctly bad thing for the inhabitants of New York to be deprived of the opportunities of assuring to advantage that these companies present. Another drawback must be that the benefits of healthy competition from good offices will be lost.

THE RUSSIAN AGRARIAN PROBLEM.

III.

EMIGRATION TO SIBERIA.

THE Douma's proposed solution of this problem by the expropriation and wholesale distribution among the peasantry of the lands of private owners is impracticable for several reasons. First, as we have endeavoured to show, there is not enough land to satisfy all the claimants under such a sweeping scheme of redistribution. Secondly, the peasant, partly on account of his poverty and partly through his ignorance, extracts from his present holding only about one-third of its yielding capacity. Simply to enlarge his holding would, therefore, only increase the area of land under wasteful and unproductive cultivation. Thirdly, there are serious drawbacks in the existing antiquated conditions of peasant ownership, and in the obsolete communal system of working the land, the advantages of which, owing to political developments, have practically ceased. We do not of course refer to the communal or village local government.

Since the two preceding articles on this subject were written, the plan of the Russian Government for meeting the agrarian difficulty has been announced. The appearance of this official "project for improving the conditions and enlarging the scope of peasant land-ownership" would seem to imply that the Imperial Ministers did not consider themselves bound to remain mere passive spectators while the Douma was occupied in passing extraordinary resolutions and appointing special committees to frame its own Agrarian Bill. The announcement tells us that the Government, acting on the instructions of the Tsar, has introduced into the Douma a resolution dealing with the improvement of peasant holdings, by enlarging their allotments in some instances, and by the improvement of agrarian conditions generally. It is proposed to hand over all available Crown lands to the peasants on terms favourable to them, and in localities where these lands are not sufficiently extensive to meet the requirements of bona-fide applicants, to purchase any private properties that may be offered for sale, and to resell them at low prices to the peasants. Any losses on these transactions are to be made good from State funds. The Government also intends to encourage and support migrations of the peasantry, to simplify the formalities which to some extent hamper land purchase, and to promote emigration to Siberia and Central Asia. A commission, on which the peasants will be represented, will be appointed to consider the best and most expeditious means of relieving the distressed section of the agrarian population. The fundamental principles of the ministerial project appear to rest on the truth that, apart from the size of their holdings, the real troubles of the peasantry arise mainly from disastrously bad conditions of farming and land-ownership. At the same time it is recognised that a certain proportion of the peasants really require more land, and that the majority of these belong to the class which suffers most from present agrarian conditions.

Emigration to Siberia and Central Asia, suggested in our previous articles as one means of relieving the trouble in certain districts, is to be "encouraged and supported". In her contiguous Asiatic dominions Russia possesses the largest and most adaptable colonising territories in the world. The total area of

these dominions, according to the latest estimates, is 7,011,280 square miles, or more than twice that of the United States. Of this total 1,731,280 square miles are in Central Asia and Trans-Caucasia; the remainder belong to Siberia proper, which alone, therefore, is more than one and a half times the size of Europe. Siberia is no longer the land of "chains and snow and brutal officials". It is a civilised country, where the "train-de-luxe" runs over the longest railway span in the world, across a 5,000 miles continent, and where the latest Parisian fashions tempt the passer-by in the shop windows of the large provincial towns. Every Russian feels himself at home at once on arrival in Siberia. The climate and seasons, the ethnological and domestic conditions, the language and religion are the same as in his European home. That bond of union amongst true Russians—the influence of the Orthodox Church—is predominant, not only throughout Siberia, but also in the whole of Tourkèstan and Central Asia. The total population of this Greater Russia has, by comparison, only lately begun to exceed that of London. The census of 1897 showed it to be then 7,091,244, as against 3,430,930 in 1858. The later increasing influx of foreigners and Russian immigrants has probably brought the total population up to 9,000,000. The most thickly populated parts of the country are the provinces of Tomsk and Tobolsk, Western Siberia. The average distribution is equal to 1.35 persons per square mile. That of the United Kingdom, including Ireland, was, by the latest census, 357.

One of the chief reasons of the tardy development of this immense country has been the want of manual labour for working on the land. The soil in some whole provinces is rich and fertile, and in others teems with mineral wealth and natural resources of various kinds. Without taking into account the prospective wealth of the country, dependent upon further explorations of nature's treasures hidden beneath its surface, we may take a rapid survey of such articles of raw produce as are already in circulation and which now form the staple commodities of its trade, commerce and industries. Chief and foremost among them is the gold industry in the South-Western provinces, as well as in the extreme North-Eastern vast tracts of open waste-lands (tâyga). In the arctic region there exist very extensive deposits of gold-bearing quartz. This gold the Siberians have made repeated attempts to win by the use of primitive tools, and have failed, until very lately, for want of modern appliances. Iron ore of very good quality, containing from 60 to 80 per cent. of pure iron, is to be found in the Minousinsky district, and there are many places over the whole of Siberia where the existence of similar quarries of iron, close to the surface, has been discovered. Then graphite of the best quality comes from Siberia. It is to be found in the valleys of its great rivers, also in close proximity to the surface. Faber of Vienna has the contract for the monopoly of the first qualities of Siberian graphite. Coal has been found in the Norill hills, 120 miles below Dudinsk on the banks of the river Yennissey, and in the valleys of the Angora, Phatianyha and lower down the Yennissey. These natural stores of fuel are likely to become in the future a tremendous factor in the industrial development of the country, and of its mineral products in particular. For it is a well-known fact that iron and copper ore exist in great quantities in the vicinity of the coal mines in this part of Siberia. The deposit of salt has already been the means of creating a great fish-curing industry. The extraction of amber, mica and mammoth bone also employs much labour.

The wealth of the country derived from vegetable and animal produce is even greater. Take the production of cereals. The Minousinsky district (the southern division of the Yennissey province), with an area of 13,405 square miles, possesses all the elements of a fertile agricultural country. Wheat grown in it has been pronounced on Mark Lane market equal in quality to the best Californian. The yield of the crops in this district has been known at times to be so greatly in excess of the demand that on some farms the harvest has not been reaped, but left to rot on the fields. The provinces of Tobolsk, Irkutsk, Enisseysk and Tomsk,

each of them larger than all England, are agricultural countries with a very sparse population. The war, moreover, nearly depopulated the greater part of Siberia of its able-bodied men. Some of the villages are also short of horses, and the aged and infirm, women and children have alone remained to do the harvest work. A Russian Press correspondent on the spot sums up the lamentable condition in this respect of some of the villages in the Trans-Baykal districts thus:—Depopulation in Siberia at the present time is so great, demand for working men so urgent, that the Irkutsk coal-mine owners have appealed to the authorities for permission to hire the criminals from the Alexandrovsky central prison as labourers to work in the coal mines. It may be inferred from these facts what a boon to the Siberian provinces would be an influx of free immigrants from European Russia.

THE SUMMER TRAIN SERVICE.

A NUMBER of important alterations in the railway time-tables show that the good progress of the last few years is being well maintained. The honours of the season belong to the Great Western Company. In the spring local trains began to run over the southern section, part of which is jointly owned with the Great Central, of the new north line through Beaconsfield; this month the direct line to Exeter has been brought into use for express traffic; and August is to see the opening of the Fishguard service to Ireland. The Beaconsfield line, which at present gives a reduction of several miles in distance to Oxford—though no reduction in fares—will when finished form the shortest way from London to Birmingham. Meanwhile the Great Western has definitely secured supremacy in the West of England and in the South of Ireland. Compared with the London and South-Western route to Devon and Cornwall the new line is slightly longer to Exeter and shorter to Plymouth; but it gives a much quicker journey to all points, the gain to Plymouth with quite easy running amounting to nearly three-quarters of an hour. Unfortunately the Great Western does not follow the general modern practice of using flying junctions where main lines meet; but the absence of water-troughs on the South-Western more than counterbalances this defect, and the Waterloo authorities evidently regard their position in the West as hopeless, for they have made no attempt to meet the new competition and merely maintain their old times. Notwithstanding the opening of the short cut to Exeter, the services on the old Great Western road to the West are now better than ever; Ilfracombe, Weston and other expresses still run round by Bristol, and though the closing of the Box Tunnel will temporarily dislocate traffic, no fewer than five trains are timed over the Bristol-London stretch at about fifty-nine miles an hour.

The Fishguard route will be shorter both in time and distance than any other to Southern Ireland. Morning and evening services are promised in each direction which will take passengers between London and Cork in about thirteen hours and will give excellent connexions with other places on both sides of the Channel. Fast turbine steamers have been built for the crossing, and the Great Western will of course avoid the folly of the southern lines which, though always ready to face any expense to obtain an extra knot at sea, persistently ruin their services by the slow speed of their boat trains. The harbour at Fishguard has been built primarily for the Irish traffic; but the place has great natural advantages and may, it is hoped, some day be used for ocean liners as well.

In conjunction with the Great Central and North-Eastern companies the Great Western has started a good cross-country dining-car service between Cardiff and Newcastle which goes by the Cheltenham and Banbury branch instead of following the usual Great Central route through Oxford. A new Severn Tunnel service joins Cornwall with South Wales; dining-cars have been put on between London and Cheltenham, and also between Cardiff and Birmingham; and at last the Weymouth line has received attention, the new

timing of three and a-quarter hours for the Paddington and Weymouth trains giving effective competition with the shorter and easier route from Waterloo. And the policy of encouraging through north and south traffic, which led to so many changes last year, has resulted in a new service connecting Paddington station with Brighton and the South Coast.

On the London and North-Western system there are the usual extra tourist trains for the summer, and the cross-country work between Yorkshire and Lancashire and Cardiff and Bristol has been substantially improved. Through carriages now run by the Severn Tunnel line from Leeds to Torquay. There is no alteration in the best timings from London to the great business centres, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Dublin, and Glasgow, to all of which the North-Western has the shortest and quickest route. The various services which the company has in its own control are now excellent; but the Scotch expresses which it works in partnership with the Caledonian are not so satisfactory. On both the east and west coast routes the running of the day Scotch trains is no better than it was eighteen years ago and the night trains are not so good as they were in 1895; but of course it is useless for the North-Western or North-Eastern engines to do their best if the trains when in Caledonian or Great Northern territory are to be intentionally delayed so that the total time spent on the journey shall never be reduced.

The Great Central has this month diverted several of its London expresses from the old Metropolitan route through Aylesbury to the new Beaconsfield line. The change adds more than four miles to the distances from Marylebone, and the best express is allowed eight minutes longer than was thought necessary last summer for the non-stop run to Sheffield. Later on there will no doubt be some acceleration; but even now the performance is very good, 169 miles of rather difficult road occupying only 178 minutes.

The Midland Company has as usual duplicated its Scotch services for the summer, and with one of the up expresses, a fine train which completes the whole journey from Carlisle to London in just over six hours, has resumed the long run from Leeds to S. Pancras without a stop. The principal novelties are a weekly fast excursion to Scotland which appears in the regular time-tables, a new morning service with breakfast cars from Yorkshire and Lancashire to Scotland, and an evening non-stop run from London to Sheffield in three hours by the Heysham boat train, which starts an hour later than before, at six o'clock. There is now a very good train from Bristol to Birmingham, though nothing corresponding in the opposite direction.

The North-Eastern has put on connexions from Sheffield and Hull for its very fast morning express from York to Scotland. This train on leaving York goes to Newcastle, nearly eighty-one miles away, in eighty-two minutes; and if the Great Northern connexion from King's Cross were of similar quality the time between London and Edinburgh would be reduced to seven hours. The North-Eastern has had much experience with rail-motors, or as it calls them auto-cars, of one type or another; and from the beginning of July the company's rail-motor services have been largely extended, the motors being used not only for ordinary stopping train work in many districts but also for local fast services from Newcastle to Morpeth and Darlington. The suitability of rail-motors for carrying on a light and frequent local service and for gathering together passengers for long-distance trains is now fully recognised, and their employment will be found economic and convenient under almost all conditions of traffic and population.

On the Great Eastern dining-cars are now running to Hunstanton, this being their first appearance on the Cambridge line. By means of a short-junction railway near Cromer this company has greatly improved the access to Sheringham from the south. The Great Eastern's north-country trains which have run for many years in connexion with the Continental boats at Harwich will now have to face the competition of the new service started by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company from Hull to Belgium. How far this will be developed can hardly be foreseen at present, but whether it is to prove profitable or the reverse to

its owners it can hardly fail to draw away some business from Harwich. The Great Northern, which once was the fastest railway in the world, has not now on its main line from York to London a single train which reaches a speed of fifty-one miles an hour.

The Brighton Company has just acquired some engines which are far larger than it at present requires, so perhaps when the widenings are all completed trains may be put on which shall be at least second rate. Part of the enlarged station at Victoria is now in use, but the engineers have still much work to do both in London and down the line. The South-Eastern and Chatham has provided new rolling-stock for its Continental services, but in doing so has kept to the old type of carriage and has made no acceleration in running. From the time the North-Western began to send dining-cars over the Brighton system the South-Eastern has been the only great British railway on which no provision is made for meals in the train; though, on the boat trains at least, before or after a rough Channel passage, a good meal would for obvious reasons be particularly acceptable.

A BACK VIEW.

LIVES there a man so fortunate as not to have met the fine old fellow who tells you (who are recovering from influenza) that he is $x + y$ years of age and never had a day's illness in his life? If there be such a man he is much to be congratulated. Most of us know the old bore too well, and are fain to console ourselves with the thought that he has never enjoyed the pleasures of convalescence. He that denies the existence of such pleasures may be suspected of being as yet imperfectly recovered. Is it no pleasure to be able to say with Sarah Marlborough "I won't be physicked and I won't die"? To tell the doctor who has troubled you so long that you won't trouble him to call again? And the appetite of the convalescent! The appetite alone is, as George Robins used to say of the air, worth the money. Dimly, though not so dimly as of the events of last year, comes a memory of two small boys recovering from scarlet fever who ate a brace of pheasants and sent down for more.

But even the blissful state of convalescence has its crumpled rose leaves. Charles Lamb has described them to our hand. Elia, however, lamenting the "fall from dignity, amounting to a deposition" which recovery entails, forgot to mention (perhaps he was too amiable to mention) the last degradation of all, the bath-chair.

A man, let us say, breaks his leg in the hunting field, or undergoes an operation for appendicitis. If all go well with him, he may hope to be in good health long before the doctors allow him to walk. He cannot without risk climb into a carriage and he is dragged about in bath chairs, *condamné aux bagnes*. It is a pleasant, rubber-tired mode of progression enough in private, but in public places (and thither the chairmen do chiefly resort) requires more brass than falls to the lot of the general. For everyone whom he meets eyes him over, sees his florid complexion and his general aspect of well-being, and wonders. Lazarus scowls from between his crutches, grudging that he cannot afford a chair. Dives sneers from his motor at cheap ostentation. (No ostentation will go down with Dives that does not cost a pot of money.) Senex and Virago lament the degeneracy and effeminacy of modern youth. Unkindest of all, Puella, scowling sidelong, whispers to her companion that she is sure that great healthy-looking man is fitter to drag a chair than the dear old person who has him in tow.

It may be said that conscious innocence will make him brave. He knows that under the apron a badly broken bone reposes. *Mens conscia fracti* will carry him through. But surely this wonderful boldness attributed to innocence is exaggerated? Innocence will not perhaps fly as soon as guilt when no man pursueth. Once the pursuit has begun, guilt is generally much the braver of the two.

The only way of escape is to affect insensibility of

the crowd, to stare stonily at the sky (when they will set you down as an idiot), or at the chairman's back, which does not at first sight commend itself to contemplation. But by taking a little thought it is wonderful what a lot of amusement may be got out of it. If your mind incline that way, you may emulate the late Sherlock Holmes and deduce from infinitesimal indications the life story of your conductor. As, that he was once a gay young flyman, with a bit on every race, which accounts for his having come down to a chair. That in his palmy days he drove uproarious trippers to neighbouring points of interest and flirted with the Harriet on the box seat. He still wears a flower in his coat, which the wind blows back into full view. That he is now married, and to a lady of a frugal mind, for his waist-buttons are not a pair and have evidently been matched out of domestic stock. You can make him as interesting as Kipps.

Or, if you be of a scientific turn, scorning romance, you may ponder the origin of those two meaningless buttons, which, to the uninitiated, is hard to guess. They are, we have been informed, a survival of the days

"When courtiers galloped o'er four counties
The Ball's fair partner to behold
And humbly hope she caught no cold".

Tails were tails in those days, and no self-respecting Clarinda would have looked at a Sylvander clad in the now universal lounging jacket. Therefore the prudent courtier, before starting on his long ride, affixed loops to his tail-ends and hitched these over his buttons that he might arrive at Clarinda's house with uncrumpled tail coverts. Let us hope that he never forgot to let them down on arrival, nor appeared in the presence like one of Bopeep's lambs.

But perhaps you may have a soul above buttons, and are concerned only with higher speculations. In this case, you may take a leaf from Swift's book and moralise on buttons as he on broomsticks. "So" you may say "do we view, through the imperfect medium of biography, the great men who have gone before. Not one biographer in a hundred (nay in a thousand) manages to convey to our minds an idea of his subject. The man who is supposed to be set before us in two fat volumes remains as shadowy as when we only knew his name. We cannot form a 'working hypothesis' of him. We should not know him if we met him, any more than we should know our chairman if we met him face to face. And too often his eccentricities, his mismatched buttons and his somewhat greasy collar, are pressed on our view by the biographer again and again".

Of course there are exceptions to this arraignment of biographers. We should almost certainly recognise Johnson for instance. But how many Boswells does literature count? We might from Hogg's unfinished sketch recognise the boy Shelley. Should we identify the man Shelley from having read Jeaffreson's *Life*, painstaking as it is? Hardly. Some of us think that we should know Mirabeau from Carlyle's essay. He stands out much more distinct, more of a man, than all the Seagreen Incorruptibles and sallow Horse-leeches of the "French Revolution", who are to most of us mere nicknames, or Tussaud wax-figures at best.

Autobiographers should betray more of their real selves: but do they? Can anyone accept poor dear crooked Rousseau at his own valuation? For his sake, we hope not. From their books (non-biographical) we may know the men, if (a big If) they were like their books. But biography as a rule gives a very imperfect idea of a man, a back view, such as we get of our bath-chairman.

These are some of the ways of beguiling the tedium of a cripple's progress. They may be multiplied indefinitely, and we wish to all and sundry pent in bath-chairs a speedy release, and a return to the most dignified method of human progression, walking, before they have tried them all.

THREE SONGS FROM VERLAINE.

I.

SOHO.

DANCE the jig!

I loved best her pretty eyes,
Clearer than stars in any skies,
I loved her eyes for their dear lies.

Dance the jig!

And ah! the ways, the ways she had
Of driving a poor lover mad:
It made a man's heart sad and glad.

Dance the jig!

But now I find the old kisses shed
From her flower-mouth a rarer red
Now that her heart to mine is dead.

Dance the jig!

And I recall, now I recall
Old days and hours, and ever shall,
And that is best, and best of all.

Dance the jig!

II.

A FORGOTTEN AIR.

'Tis the ecstasy of repose,
'Tis love when tired lids close,
'Tis the wood's long shuddering
In the embrace of the wind,
'Tis, where grey boughs are thinned,
Little voices that sing.

O fresh and frail is the sound
That twitters above, around,
Like the sweet tiny sigh
That dies in the shaken grass;
Or the sound when waters pass
And the pebbles shrink and cry.

What soul is this that complains
Over the sleeping plains,
And what is it that it saith?
Is it mine, is it thine,
This lowly hymn I divine
In the warm night, low as a breath?

III.

MEZZETIN'S SONG.

Go, and with never a care
But the care to keep happiness!
Crumple a silken dress
And snatch a song in the air.

Hear the moral of all the wise
In a world where happy folly
Is wiser than melancholy:
Forget the hour as it flies!

The one thing needful on earth, it
Is not to be whimpering.
Is life after all a thing
Real enough to be worth it?

ARTHUR SYMONS.

SIGHT AND INSIGHT.

ONE breathless summer afternoon, in a lane which climbs the flank of a Boeotian down, did Thaumás, sauntering aimlessly down the hill beneath the shade of the dogwood hedge, meet his old acquaintance Blepsides toiling manfully up. The fourth cloudless day had made the chalky cart-track a blinding furnace and veiled the distance with a haze of heat. The hedges and hedge-side flowers were coated with white powder; land and sky were as nearly colourless and without expression as they may be; the air hung dead and close, and the whole day seemed at a stand, mere waste time till the due thunderstorm should clean the world and set the season going again. Yet Blepsides, though he mopped his streaming brow, though the familiar wideawake and satchel, the shirt-front and black bow tie and the grey professorial whiskers bore their load of chalk-dust, visibly rejoiced in the sweltering hour; the dazzling road, the used air, the wan flat planes of the landscape were evidently ingredients of a delightful day. Behind him came a little troop of young men and women, intellectuals—Post Office clerks or pupil-teachers one guessed them—following strenuously, but already conscious of their boots and collars. These, said the guide after he had exchanged greetings with Thaumás, were a Literary and Scientific Institute which he was taking out on a botanical and entomological expedition in the country. He had often conducted these trips; but he seldom remembered such a magnificent day. The flora of the chalk was full of interest; he was going to show the class a habitat of *Satyrium* on the Downs, and he must not keep them waiting. With that the company moved on up the zigzags of the shadowless road, and Thaumás turned out of the track and sat down under the shade of a group of beeches that hung over a pool in a little hollow, to get out of the monotony of the sun, and to follow out some thoughts suggested by the Professor and his school. A drowsy breath from the day without seemed to blur his meditations, and for some time he idly watched a swallow which came and went on its round with sweeping curves under the beech boughs and skimmed the surface of the water. At the bird's third or fourth circuit, he began to see something more than the inexpressible grace and control of its flight; he caught the momentary lights on its plumage as it glanced into the half dusk under the trees, the reflexes cast upon its dark blue lustre by the green shimmer, downwards and upwards, of the beech leaves and the standing pool. After watching that accident of colouring for five minutes, he remembered the Professor and his flock high up on the bare Down, and wondered whether they would find anything half so abstrusely fine or so merely beautiful in their day's journey. They would by this time have reached the habitat of *Satyrium*, and no doubt the Professor was giving them a lucid and stimulating little lecture, stripping off petals and showing the naked economy of the nectary to the disciples, straggling up and glad of a breathing-space on the tanned grass. The difference between the two ways of observation—the idly receptive, taking the chance-given visitation in vacant ease beneath the shade, and the busy research, scoring its gains out in the dusty, sweating world—were matter to Thaumás of a good deal of discursive musing. His consideration of the character of Blepsides as an observer ended by filling him with a sort of friendly horror: it seemed barely credible that any intelligence, in all other respects fairly balanced with his own, could look on the common earth with such fundamental difference of vision. He recalled rambles long ago, during which he had tried to convey to his companion something of his own appreciation of the mere outward beauty of form and coloured light: there came to mind the unspeakable blue green of a deep pool of the Duddon when summer-clear; the depth of shade in a certain majestic copper-beech in twilight, which he had matched with some pieces of "coloured darkness" as he called it, in one of the Fairford windows; the infallible harmony of the reflected sheen on the upper sides of leaves with the translucence of the lower. His exegesis, he remembered, was apt to be somewhat inarticulate; and his friend either had not listened, or had merely

taken it as a text for scientific disquisitions of his own. Something seemed to have spoiled the man for the exercise of pure perception; he must everywhere take with his own hands, and put the mark of his knowledge on all that he deigned to notice. Thaumás had not failed to enforce a favourite text that "la peste de l'homme c'est l'opinion de science", and to bring up the makeweight disadvantages of the method, the loss suffered from seeing all the stage-carpentry of the cosmic theatre; he had suggested a probable connection in inverse ratio between analytic research and the sense of beauty, and had denounced the greediness of a scientific age which is not content with setting right the facts of all the childish years before it, but wants to have their fancies too, and is a little bothered by an unaccountable superiority of its engineering over its art.

All such propositions Blepsides had met with an oblique tolerance; and presently there was an end of those expeditions, which in Thaumás' mind were always associated with dusty roads and burning weather, with turnings away from pleasant places to follow the track of "an object"—fossil or orchis or glacier-scape. To the amateur the Professor remained a powerful instance of Nature's compensatory device whereby a too curiously analytic observation of her ways dulls the mind to her composite charm, and slurs the gift of distinguishing the fine differences which are the main secret of outward beauty. To Blepsides such a day of smothered heat as was now slackening towards a haze-wrapped sunset represented the choicest summer weather: to him all starlights were alike; the common nights with their clear ineffectual needle-points of flame; the soft autumn dark when every star looks like a nebula, a smudge of phosphoric fire; the intense trembling flash of Sirius on the greenish bloom of a wintry sky. The analytic natures, so far as they are conscious of natural beauty, seem to think of it as a fixed quantity, equally at their service whensoever they choose: they have no notion of dead days and nights, of Nature's commonplace and routine, much less of the rare moments, sudden and brief in an ordered proportion to their splendour, when the utmost height is revealed. There is no want of reasons for a blunt and mechanic reception of Nature's infinitely delicate and recondite phases: the utilities of common life pressing upon us day by day, the sooty monotony of streets, ungainly clothes, perfunctory ornament in furniture, almost compel us to believe that eyes were not meant to see with. Education in this kind seems to do nothing, or too much. The multitude go through the world with dead walls of matter all about them; to them the oak is as the ash, Rigel might be Fomalhaut, centaury and melilot are vaguely weeds. A few observers here and there know the stars by character, as they know their cloudland, their forest trees and their wayside flowers, at once broadly and finely; but the majority of the inquirers fall promptly to book-learning and the ologies, to magnifying-glasses, to "nature-study" in classrooms, to such expeditions as that which Blepsides is now leading back towards the railway and civilisation once more. Dusty and spent, the explorers will gather for tea in a back room of the Station Hotel, redolent of old tobacco and shandygaff and fusty antimacassars; and soon the train will speed them to the comfortable sounds and smells of home, the lines of twinkling lights which thicken on either hand with a friendly cheer.

As Thaumás goes home in the dusk, he finds that the dead oppression has passed with the sun. The dew brings sweetness out of the bleached grass and the very chalk-dust on the roadside; white lakes of mist spread and link themselves together down the valley; the moon is up, broad and yellow, over the shoulder of the Down, and a still-drawn breeze washes the world cool and takes the fire of the day out of the seared temper. Perhaps, says a milder thought, the minute philosopher after all has the best of the argument, taking back with him a polyommatus or a helleborine safe in his poison-bottle or his botanical tin, while the theorist must content himself with one more fast-failing recollection of beauty, the trace of the unseizable spirit that moves behind the outward signs.

BRIDGE.

THE SHORT SUIT CONVENTION.

THE meaning of the so-called short-suit convention, in answer to a double of No Trumps by the third player, seems to be very imperfectly understood among a large section of bridge players, and it is sometimes woefully misapplied. Some players seem to think that they are bound to lead the highest card of their numerically shortest suit, when their partner doubles No Trumps, whatever the value of the cards in that suit may be, but this is by no means the right reading of the convention. Only a few days ago, we saw a player lead the king from king and one other in answer to a double. When the inevitable disaster, after such a lead, had occurred, he said, "I led you the highest of my shortest suit", and he wanted to argue that he had played quite correctly, although he had three cards, headed by the 8, of another suit, which happened to be the one required.

There are no arbitrary conventions in the game of bridge. All the known conventions have been arrived at by a logical extension of some recognised method of play. Thus, the convention of calling for a suit by discarding an unnecessarily high card is merely an extension of the principle of throwing the ace of a suit to indicate that one holds the other high cards of it. In the same way, echoing in one's partner's suit at No Trumps when one holds four cards of that suit, is a perfectly logical extension of unblocking. Let us trace the short suit convention back to its probable origin. It must repeatedly have happened, before any conventions had been introduced into the game at all, that the third player doubled a No Trump declaration, and his partner had to determine for himself which suit to lead. Would not the leader have argued somewhat on this wise, "My partner has obviously doubled No Trumps on entire command of one suit, in the hope that I may lead it to him. What is that suit likely to be? It cannot be a suit of which I hold either ace, king, or queen, and it is not likely to be a suit of which I have many, therefore I must not open my own best suit, but must try to find his strength by leading a suit in which I am weak, choosing a red suit rather than a black one, as the declarer would not have made a dangerous No Trump call if he had had great strength in either red suit". There we have the principle of the short-suit convention without any extension at all. Some players rather encourage the misapprehension which exists on the subject by saying, when they are asked what they want led if they double No Trumps, "Highest of shortest, please". The proper answer should be "Weak suit, please". The term "short suit convention" is really a misnomer. It ought to be called the "weak suit convention". This misnomer, which has somehow crept in, is responsible for a great deal of misunderstanding on the subject.

The object of most conventions is to convey information to a partner, but not so in this case. Here there is no question of information to be given. The doubler does not care two straws which is his partner's weakest or shortest suit, all that he wants is to have his own long suit led to him at once. Never should a player think that he is bound by any hard and fast rule to lead his numerically shortest suit, or even his relatively weakest suit, because his partner has doubled. The relative value of small cards, below honours, has very little to do with it, a suit of 5, 4, 3 is as strong as a suit of 9, 8, 7, for the purpose of this particular lead. What the leader has to do is to try to determine, by every process of induction in his power, which suit his partner is most likely to have doubled upon, and to lead that suit at once. It may even be a suit of which he has four himself. Say that his hand is

Hearts—King, 6
Diamonds—9, 7, 5, 2
Clubs—King, 7, 2
Spades—Queen, 10, 8, 3

With this hand the heart suit is his numerically weakest, and the club suit is his next weakest, but he must not lead either of these. It is an easy lead, because the heart, club, and spade suits are all put out of court at once by the fact that there is a high honour

in each of them, and there only remains the diamond suit, therefore he must lead the 9 of diamonds, regardless of the fact that he has four of them. Occasionally the leader has such a hand that he is obliged absolutely to guess between two or three suits, but in most hands he will have something to guide him, either a high honour in one or more suits, or numerical strength in at least one, and that will very much reduce his area of guesswork. It is very rare for the dealer to have to choose between more than two suits, which is at the worst an even-money chance, and experience teaches us that the right suit is led, under the weak-suit convention, rather more often than not, about in the proportion of six to four.

We have a good deal more to say about this convention, but it must be deferred to another article.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARMY AND NAVY REDUCTIONS IN 1792.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

16 July, 1906.

SIR,—A passage in George III.'s speech on the opening of the Session on 31 January, 1792, and another in a speech made by Pitt on the same day, when viewed in the light of the events that followed hard upon their utterance, provide a somewhat pertinent commentary on the present Government's policy of disarmament. The words of the King were: "The friendly assurances received from foreign Powers induce me to think that some immediate reduction might safely be made in our naval and military establishments." Pitt sounds the note of security in language even more assured: "Unquestionably there never was a time in the history of this country when, from the situation of Europe, we might more reasonably expect fifteen years of peace than we may at the present moment." Yet before the year was out England was thrust into a struggle that, lasting for over twenty years, was only terminated on the field of Waterloo.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.
ABSIT OMEN.

A MANDATE FROM DR. CLIFFORD.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—As the time draws near when the Education Bill must face the ordeal of the cool and critical judgment of the House of Lords, signs are not wanting that its promoters are less easy in their minds about the reception it is likely to meet with there than they would fain be thought to be. The confidence which some think it politic to assume is rather belied by the somewhat threatening tone by which others hope to inspire a salutary terror. "It is said," Dr. Macnamara tells the Metropolitan Radical Association, "that the Lords are going to throw out the Bill. The Lords are going to do nothing of the sort. They are not exactly fools. They know the weight of public opinion behind the Bill". We quite agree that they are not fools—far from it; and therefore, whether they pass it or simply "transform" it, we are confident at least that this mere bunkum, this "weight of public opinion behind it", will not greatly terrify them. If any now believe that the country gave a mandate at the late election for such a measure as that which passes as Mr. Birrell's, those credulous persons, we may be sure, are not to be looked for in the House of Lords. All moderately well informed persons who have followed the course of the controversy know well that no such provisions as those which have shocked the English sense of justice were laid before the electors at the time, and that the policy shadowed forth in the writings or speeches of the leaders of the party suggested something widely different. The year before he took office Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman announced as his educational programme "perfect freedom of conscience; equal treatment, together with the education of the child in the faith of

his fathers, until he come of age to judge for himself"—three pledges most signally violated in the Birrellian measure: "and that programme", said Mr. Brearly in his admirable speech at the Church House Meeting of Teachers, "that is what won the election, so far as education is concerned".

That the worst provisions of the measure may have already existed in the teeming brain of Dr. Clifford, or even have been matured under his guidance in the secret councils of the caucus of Nonconformist preachers before the election is possible enough: but the important fact is clear enough that the British public had no intimation of them until, by unwearying labour astutely directed to a single end, the solid phalanx of two hundred "straight" voters for the Clifford policy had been safely installed in the Commons—a force sufficient to coerce the Government into registering and approving, with as few wry faces as they could, the Cliffordian decrees.

The spectacle recently beheld of the Rev. Doctor installed in a parliamentary committee-room, like the British Resident in a native Indian Court, blandly to dictate how much might be permitted to the Government and how much not, is hardly likely to be repeated in the councils of the House of Lords. They will at least determine for themselves whether or no they shall bow to the mandate of—Dr. Clifford.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
H. E. T.

SPANISH SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

14 July, 1906.

SIR,—The upper classes in Russia and Spain owe you a debt of gratitude for the justice which is always meted out to them in your columns. As regards Spain it is to be regretted that English students of Spanish read the "popular" colloquial novels dealing with gipsies, muleteers, &c., instead of the stylist, intellectual pictures of Spanish society, which have come from the pens of (Professor) Alas and Juan Valera, noble, diplomatist, poet and wit.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
SPANISH OBSERVATION.

THE DECAY OF THE BONUS SYSTEM.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

81 King William Street, London, E.C.
19 July, 1906.

SIR,—In your issue of last week you have been unfair to the London Life Association Limited, for you say (on page 41) that a certain company "now issues whole life policies without profits and with guaranteed surrender values at lower rates of premium than are charged by any other company".

The "Minimum Premiums" of this Association, as printed in the leaflet and prospectus which I enclose, are, you will observe, at many ages lower than those to which you referred, and at more, if you will make the necessary correction for the Association's practice of using the "nearest age" instead of "age next birthday"—that is to say admitting at the rate a life six months older. It is true that these Minimum Premiums are not non-participating, for after the first seven years they will be entitled to some reduction though not much, but this is to the advantage of the policyholder who pays still less for his assurance. A surrender value of at least one-quarter of the premiums paid, even of the first alone, is guaranteed, but the actual surrender value it is impossible to predict, as it depends on future rates of reduction, which are themselves largely contingent on future rates of interest and mortality.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. D. HIGHAM,
Actuary and Manager.

HUMANITARIAN MANNERS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Quarry Place, Sevenoaks, 17 July, 1906.

SIR,—Mr. C. H. Norman's letter and his remarks as to the Egyptian executions seem to call for a reply.

As one who has recently returned from the land of the Pharaohs, may I be allowed to raise my voice in protest against this sickly sentimentalism? Our position in Egypt is an extremely difficult one, which requires a vast deal of tact, and unless we show the native clearly that swift retribution will follow acts of violence, he will very soon get out of hand altogether.

Recently in Egypt, during the Turkish crisis (happily averted by the firm front unexpectedly shown by the present Government, on the advice of Lord Cromer and Sir Edward Grey), I was discussing with a native the probability of a rising against the Europeans, and I said to him, "I suppose you would kill the English first". His reply was to the effect that they would dispose of the Greeks and Maltese, but not the English. On my asking why, his significant answer was, "If we kill the English, they will kill us", and it is this knowledge that stern justice and prompt retribution will follow outrages which makes the natives, if not love us, at any rate respect us, and enables the Englishman to live and do his work in isolated districts, and wield an authority possessed by no other nation.

As in the late Boer war, so at the present time, the vapourings of irresponsible politicians and others are copied into the local papers as the feelings and opinions of the British nation, and the natives, urged on by these and by professional agitators, who keep well in the background, are led on to acts which not only threaten the lives and property of English-speaking dwellers in isolated districts, but retard the civilisation of a country for which we have done, and are doing, so much.

An example must be made, and had your correspondent waited till all the facts were before him, he would have seen that not only did we act in a humane manner, but also in the best interests of the country, and of the native himself.

Yours faithfully,

MACDONELL BONAR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

17 July, 1906.

SIR,—Mr. C. H. Norman's letter appearing in your last issue is perhaps more interesting as a not unfair example of a type of mind than for the subject matter of the letter itself. It would be uncharitable to attribute to Mr. Norman a belief in the sober truth of what he has written—on the other hand were one to credit him with the endeavour to be sarcastic or ironical the letter is so devoid of wit or humour that one would be compelled to deem him either stupid beyond belief or mentally afflicted. Language so violent and intemperate itself not infrequently veils a writer's meaning. I think in the present case, difficult as it may be to disentangle it, one must assume that Mr. Norman has, or thinks he has, some meaning. I imagine, Sir, he wishes you and your readers to understand that he considers the SATURDAY REVIEW to be indifferent to human suffering in those who oppose the Empire, or in those within the Empire, who are opposed to its own particular views. He conceives himself to be a man of greater humanity, of higher moral character and aim, than you, Mr. Editor, or the Archbishop of Canterbury. I do not know Mr. Norman, I am not even acquainted with his name—but the phase of mind is so common in the present day amongst a certain class of people that it is deserving of some attention. It results, I believe, from people living and walking all too exclusively with and amongst those who live and walk and think solely and only as they do themselves—they form themselves in fact into a society of mutual admiration, and the product is a bigotry, a narrowness, and want of charity of which the Pharisee of the New Testament was but a faint foreshadow.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

T. W. BINYON.

THE KING'S ENGLISH.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Royal Societies Club, St. James's Street, S.W.,
10 July, 1906.

SIR,—As I have been apparently—though most unintentionally—the cause of certain foolish aspersions upon "Scotsmen" and "Glasgow logic" in the correspondence you have been so forbearing as to publish on "The King's English", perhaps you will kindly allow me to state that I am not a Glaswegian, nor a Scotsman, of any sort, but a Londoner born and bred.

FREDERIC H. BALFOUR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—An editorial sentence in a recent issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW reminds one of the advice tendered by "Sportsman", to the effect that, though the phrase "none but he" is wrong, yet we ought to "stick to it" because it is "familiar". In a note concerning the German Emperor you say, "who but he could safely put the thing in this way?" &c. That "but" is here a preposition no one, except perhaps "A. G.", will question. It has exactly the same force as "save", "except", or "with the exception of". Now, would any educated person write "who, with the exception of he?" I trow not. Neither, it appears to me, can anything be said for the use of the nominative after the preposition "but" except just that it is "familiar", and has been the form favoured by some authors of good repute. May I cite against you the well-known line:—"Come, for, but thee, who seeks the muse"?

If "Sportsman's" dictum, "Let us stick to what is familiar", is to be the rule, why continue to denounce such old friends as "between you and I", "the old and new", "Hoping you are well, believe me", "I never remember", and the Scotch (this to remind Mr. Murison that his countrymen are not linguistically infallible) "I will be obliged", &c.

Yours faithfully,

M. A.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

24 Bury Street, St. James's, S.W.
16 July, 1906.

SIR,—English grammar is a subject upon which everyone is able to express an opinion without any great expectation of being right: so if you will allow me I should like to suggest that "all but I" is at any rate as grammatically correct as "all but me", while it certainly has all the best of it euphonically. However much people differ on other points, there seems to be a general agreement that "but" is a conjunction sometimes; so you can say "all but I" where "but" is the direct negative of "and". If you like to say "all but me" you have the privilege of using "but" as a preposition. Both expressions seem to me to be right; and a preference for either, a matter of taste.

In the same way you can say "I am better than him" or "I am better than he" (in the latter case "is" being elided). In fact, sir, I will go so far as to say that a decent explanation can be found for most of the apparently ungrammatical expressions which call forth derisive letters in the press. It is much easier to say that an unusual sentence is unsound than to discover why it is correct. For instance, in the Clarendon Press edition of Milton's "Areopagitica" Professor Hales states that the opening sentence is an "anacoluthon", a polite expression for a grammatically reprehensible mistake: a little thought shows that the sentence is perfectly correct, though the order of the words is twisted slightly for rhetorical purposes.

Not so very long ago there was a crusade against "under the circumstances"; and "in the circumstances" has—journalistically at least—taken its place. After all it depends upon whether you look upon "circumstances" as of two dimensions or of three—to use a mathematical expression. To me three dimensions are more homely and I cling to my

"under"; but perhaps if I had been "overwhelmed by circumstances" I might feel then that I was "in" them as well as (though most certainly) "under" them.

Your obedient servant,

A. B. CLIFTON.

THE ORIGIN OF MAY-DAY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Royal Societies Club, St. James's Street, S.W.,
15 July, 1906.

SIR,—In your issue of 14th inst. there is a letter from L. G. questioning the origin of "May-Day". Allow me to inform him that May-Day was originally "The Phallic Festival", not Phallic Worship as many suppose: it was not a worship but a festival of seed-time and fructification, practised originally at the times of the Stellar, Lunar and Solar Mythos, and by evolution when the Christian took the place of the Solar eschatology it became our "May-Day", a festival of seed-time and harvest.

Yours truly,

ALBERT CHURCHWARD.

THE "RED HILLS" OF ESSEX.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Royal Societies Club, S.W.,
26 July, 1906.

SIR,—Under the cognomen of "red hills" are known the numerous low mounds which abound on the borders of creeks, and elsewhere on the coast of Essex. They vary greatly in area and are clearly artificial, as their material is mainly burnt earth, and their antiquity may be estimated by the fact that articles of the Roman period have been discovered. But probably they date from earlier ages, for their bases extend below the line of the alluvium to the London clay. Nearly thirty years ago the late Mr. H. Stopes called attention to them and published papers on the subject in scientific journals; in the first volume of the "Victoria County History of Essex" (1903) I summarised the little that is known or surmised about the hills; Mr. W. Cole, who made preliminary explorations some twelve years since, is publishing an account of them in the "Essex Naturalist"; and now a small committee (of which I have the honour to act as chairman) is collecting funds for the work and arranging for an extended and systematic examination by pick and shovel, and for the insertion of the hill sites on Ordnance Survey Maps of the six-inch scale. A small grant has been made by the Society of Antiquaries, the Essex Archæological Society, and the Essex Field Club, sufficient to start the mapping, and excavations on a limited scale, but we hope that further subscriptions may enable us to do justice to our endeavour to penetrate the mystery in which the red hills have so long been wrapped.

Hills somewhat similar in appearance exist on the coasts of Kent, Suffolk, and other counties, but till they are excavated it is impossible to say if they are true "red hills". As the questions to be investigated are not purely archæological, but touch the wide field of geological conditions and physical changes, it seems desirable to make the proposed exploration generally known. Among members of the committee will be noted the names of men well known in the world of science as well as of antiquaries.

The committee consist of the following:—F. Chancellor, F.R.I.B.A.; Miller Christy, F.L.S.; William Cole, F.L.S.; Rev. T. H. Curling, B.A.; W. H. Dalton, F.G.S.; T. V. Holmes, F.G.S.; Dr. H. Laver, F.S.A.; Dr. Philip Laver; Professor R. Meldola, F.R.S.; Charles H. Read, F.S.A.; Colonel O. E. Ruck, F.S.A. (Scotland); F. W. Rudler, I.S.O., F.G.S.; H. Wilmer, C.E., Hon Secretary and Treasurer.

I. CHALKLEY GOULD,

Chairman of Committee.

[This is an excellent enterprise, and we hope the committee will have no difficulty in getting the funds they need.—ED. S.R.]

REVIEWS.

IS THERE A NEW FRANCE?

"The Church in France." By J. E. C. Bodley. London: Constable. 1906. 3s. 6d. net.

THE substance of this little book consists of two lectures delivered by the author at the Royal Institution last January. As we noticed these lectures at the time of their delivery, we do not propose to devote any further space to their consideration except to recommend those who desire to form a right opinion on the matter to study them carefully, for they contain the most impartial summary we know of a question which a Frenchman could hardly treat fairly. Their value is enhanced by an appendix giving the text of the law of Associations of 1901 and the Separation Act of 1905. But the preface which Mr. Bodley has written since the French elections contains one or two propositions deserving some consideration. According to the writer, who as all the world knows has devoted years of patient research to the collection of his material and the formation of his opinions therefrom, the time has arrived to rewrite his work, because the "France of the young century is not the France of the last years of the old".

This is a hard saying and we confess we should like to know further particulars about the grounds on which it is based than can be learned from the few sentences in which a view so startling is propounded. There are few people with any knowledge of life who cannot recall individual instances among their own friends where severe illness, a great catastrophe, or a striking piece of good fortune has not deeply affected character but here we are asked to believe that the Dreyfus agitation swept over France and that, to-day when the sky is clear again, we behold a new France which has lost "the idealistic heritage of the Revolution". Greater effects could not have been attributed to the Revolution itself. Matthew Arnold seems to us to have characterised such a situation more in accordance with our ordinary experiences when he wrote—

"That glow of central fire is done,
But ye, ye are the same".

We are well aware that Mr. Bodley in the present volume can only state his conclusions; he has no space wherein to expand and defend them. This is the unfortunate result of his long illness which has delayed his larger work long promised. However, we must consider Mr. Bodley's latest views as they are presented to us and it is therefore impossible to avoid speculating in what way recent events in France can legitimately lead us to assume that the elements of the French character have been gravely affected.

We should say in the first place that we believe if anything has really modified the French character during the last half-century it has been not the Dreyfus case but the war of 1870. That was a catastrophe which might well have influenced the mental outlook of a whole people. It killed the restless ambition for European adventure which had prevailed from the Revolutionary wars onwards. Long before the Dreyfus agitation anyone who had taken the trouble to travel about France and converse with all classes had come to the conclusion that the average Frenchman desired nothing less than a war. There was, it is true, great irritation and soreness which found its expression in colonial expansion. These petty triumphs gave that spurious solace which comes from success in a field where you have no abiding interests when the desired sphere of distinction is closed. The remote prospect of a naval war with England did not terrify men like that of a new struggle on land. Hence for a time the pretence of an adventurous France was kept up, but it was merely a pretence, and all that most Frenchmen asked for was to rest and be thankful. In the end the entente cordiale with this country was popular because it seemed to guarantee France on sea and made for business.

We have no doubt that Mr. Bodley is right when he says that the day of revolutionary enthusiasm is over. The idea of spreading abroad French ideals seems indeed to have perished, for even in the Near East

France takes little trouble to maintain her standing. But is this the startling new development Mr. Bodley would have us believe? Is it not rather something that has been maturing for many years? Is it also not the truth that the idealistic talk so common in the Chambers and public gatherings has for long been nothing but common form? Had Gambetta lived we believe that the development of France since 1870 might have been on different lines, but she fell into the hands of those who were inspired by views which can but be described as merely "bourgeois" and that style of public policy has permeated the nation. The "revolutionary ideals" were after all created by one or two writers. They were then exploited by adventurers and finally directed to his own ends by a supreme genius. In reality they passed away in the apotheosis of the Great Napoleon. The unreal flicker of 1848 soon found its extinction in the coup d'état of 1851. The most constant factor in French politics has always been the timidity of the middle class. That made possible the usurpation of the third Napoleon and that it has not died out is painfully evident from the ridiculous scare of last May-day when half Paris cowered at home and laid up provisions for a revolutionary siege without even the slenderest foundation for its panic fear. No doubt the Second Empire stimulated a desire for military glory and territorial enterprise, which indeed was the later phase of the Revolution itself, but there was little genuine idealism about it. After all the ordinary Frenchman then as now desired to make and keep a competence he loved best, his "bien être", and if his country could make a figure in the world so much the better; if not, he might grumble and refrain from voting but was little disposed to betake himself to remote and uncomfortable regions to promote ideals.

The chief phenomenon in the France of to-day, as Mr. Bodley truly observes, is that the new couches sociales are beginning to demand reforms that shall benefit themselves as distinct from the middle classes. This development will be intensely interesting to watch and it will no doubt in the existing Parliament take the form of a duel between the Radical party headed by M. Clemenceau and the Socialists. The latter indeed would seem to be the only "idealists" left in France, but they are "idealists" of another stamp from the old Revolutionaries. What we have to watch now is the progress of a Labour party working for the ends of labour as apart from the rest of the nation. But this phenomenon is not peculiar to France. The problem of that country is almost equally the problem of Germany and England. Is Mr. Bodley's dictum therefore anything more than a brilliant paradox?

One other salient fact stands out as an outcome of the Separation Act and its endorsement by the late general election; it is, in Mr. Bodley's words, that "the first serious breach is made in the administrative fabric constructed by Napoleon". But how little the main fabric has been really shaken may be gauged by the results of the elections themselves. Every careful observer will confirm the statement that official pressure was never more mercilessly or adroitly applied and the manipulation of elections towards the ends of the existing administration has never been more vigorously carried out than by M. Clemenceau. Now this has always been one of the main ends towards which the Napoleonic machine has been directed by successive Governments. Never at any time have the methods of reporting the views of individuals and observing their demeanour towards the powers that be been so mercilessly exercised and with so little scruple as during the last decade. It is true that the principle of establishing religions was adopted by Napoleon as part of his system of moral police, but it is the one branch of the administrative system which can be lopped off the most easily and with the least prospect of impairing the vitality of the whole. The practice of religion has for long ceased to be a part of the life of the ordinary Frenchman but the desire for official recognition and the general acceptance of an intrusive officialism as the best and most natural system of conducting the national life shows no sign of waning. We venture therefore to think that Mr. Bodley exaggerates both the violence of the change in the French character and the probable effects of dis-

establishment but we differ with some reluctance from a thinker so intimately acquainted with his subject. We can only in conclusion express a sincere hope that complete restoration to health may soon enable him to place before the world a more full and comprehensive record than this brief epitome of the developments which he believes to be taking place in the France of to-day.

A MOTOR TEXT-BOOK.

"Motors and Motor Vehicles." By W. Worby Beaumont. Second Edition. 2 vols. London: Constable. 1906. 42s. net each.

THERE is a curious sentence at the opening of the introduction to this book which in the light of present events is worth quoting: "The history of mechanical road locomotion offers very little encouragement to those who are entering upon it now." The introduction is not dated but the preface to the first edition bears date of March 1900, and six years ago the sentence just quoted was undoubtedly true. No one however could say that it is true of the present time, and few words could better indicate the great rapidity with which motor traction and locomotion have come to the front. The author goes on in the introduction to record some of the history of the earlier attempts at mechanical road locomotion, recounting also the difficulties that had to be met, greatly on account of the "baneful prejudice of bucolic magistracy". He refers to the laws which he says "covered us with ridicule, and placed a heavy tax on one of the first necessities to national prosperity, viz. cheap transport". In the days of Hancock (1833) who ran steam services round about London these laws did not exist but tollkeepers were permitted to increase the toll on steam vehicles so much as almost to forbid the possibility of the enterprise becoming remunerative. Then came the repressive laws which forbade mechanically propelled traffic, or at least limited it to machines like the steam-roller with the man with red flag, as for the twenty years preceding 1896. Mechanically propelled road traffic in its inception is not very junior to railway traffic. Hancock produced a motor-car in 1833, driven by steam, and the drawings of it in the first chapter remind one forcibly of the picture and model of the old "Rocket", said to have been the first locomotive. Looking at the drawings only and comparing those of the first chapters in the first volume with those of the concluding chapters in the second volume, one sees an advance much on a parallel with that of locomotive construction commencing with the "Rocket", and ending with the enormous express locomotives of the present day. The only difference being that the motor-car has lain dormant practically for sixty years, and now has sprung to the front with an almost bewildering suddenness, while the progress of the locomotive has been distributed steadily over its whole history.

To the ordinary amateur who likes to drive his own car, but who has little or no knowledge of its mechanism, this book will be found tough reading, for to read it easily presupposes some considerable knowledge of mechanical engineering, its details, and its vocabulary. To the professional man it cannot fail to prove a most interesting and valuable book of reference. So far as we know there is no motor-car up to the date of the publication of the book at all events, which is not described in minute detail, and the description is assisted by very complete drawings and plans. The author does not take upon himself to advise intending purchasers of a motor-car, but he gives details as to the satisfactory character, as proved by trial of this or that fitting, which would be quite enough for those with the knowledge to understand them, to indicate what to accept and what to avoid when considering the purchase of a motor-car. One cannot help feeling a kind of regret that so much of the trouble and energy which must have been expended in the production of the book will become inoperative for good except from an historical point of view, on account of the rapidity with which improvements in almost all the details of every class of vehicle are

now sprung upon us, causing so many of the types so carefully described in these volumes to become obsolete after but a short existence as useful machines. In fact the author in his preface refers to this very point, and he says "progress is now so rapid in the development of the various mechanical constituents of motor vehicles, more especially those propelled by petroleum spirit motors, that even before the appearance of this book, some important details not included in the descriptions may appear". However, it is likely that the main lines of construction, in the more modern cars, have now arrived at a standard of excellence which will cause progress to be slower and more in connexion with detail. Cause is, we think, shown by this work for a little self-congratulation on the fact that although prejudice and tardy legislation did much to delay advance in the industry of motor manufacturing in this country our manufacturers have put their shoulders to the wheel to such good purpose that they are now turning out cars of British manufacture equal in durability and reliability to any of foreign make. There is a chapter on electrical ignition in the first volume which we commend to the notice and study of all motor owners and drivers, also the chapter on carburettors. Nine-tenths of the troubles on the road that are not attributable to tyres are attributable to one or other of the foregoing, or were so. The methods of ignition and carburation have so much improved however during the last few years that with ordinary care and forethought it should be rare for trouble to arise on the road, but the necessary care and forethought presuppose a proper knowledge of the respective parts, their construction and their functions. Here both amateur and professional driver can glean much from the work which will assist them in avoiding vexatious breakdowns.

The book, as was to be expected from a distinguished engineer, is comprehensive, containing very exact descriptions of motors and motor vehicles of every kind, with elaborate plates and drawings so full of detail that it might be possible, one would think, to construct any one of the machines shown from the drawings. It is certainly the standard authority on motors and motor vehicles.

REICH ON LIFE.

"Plato as an Introduction to Modern Criticism of Life."
By Emil Reich. London: Chapman and Hall. 1906.
10s. 6d. net.

THE first reflection suggested by reading the text of the Claridge Plato is on the astonishing ingratitude displayed by the author towards his main source of inspiration. We are not referring to the philosopher whose name Dr. Reich has dragged into his title-page, for that is about the sum of his obligations to the teacher he professes to interpret. Probably he has made acquaintance with the original Greek—since he gives occasional references to the pagination of Stephanus—but otherwise he exhibits no trace of the pedantry which induces some lecturers to study the alleged subject-matter of their discourses. At the start we shake ourselves free from classical entanglements—they are "learnedly inane"—and get right away into "modern criticism of life". It is here that our Professor shows himself unmindful of his literary indebtedness. In the course of his remarks on national character he lays down, "the English, in their easy-going way, say 'We will have a great war with Germany, and we shall do great things'. There is no doubt they will, as they have done before; but in the meantime they read their 'Tit-bits'". From the context it is evident that the mention of this popular periodical is intended to be contemptuous. Yet it is the very type and model of the lecturer's style.

Thus we are presented with various scraps and paragraphs which are to give us, at a glance, the whole nature of the "American people". In one place we read that the intermingling of the sexes at school has been the death of romance. At sixteen or seventeen years of age a boy has seen too much of girls—they "begin to pall on him". The charm of life has gone, and "the girl does not care about the man". But

there is another and a deeper reason, we find in a subsequent lecture, for the sexual apathy which pervades the United States. The phenomenon, by the way, has escaped the notice of other explorers. But Dr. Reich assures us that the absorbing passion in the States is love of country. "There is no love of man, wife, child, or anything. . . . Every American, therefore, goes on his knees before America like as the monk goes on his knees before God. Why, because he cares for no woman or child; no, his God is America." Very well; this is clear, instructive, and important. But what are we to think when, in a later lecture, we come upon the following very remarkable declaration? "The Americans are a very beautiful race. An American would be insulted if mention is made of a dowry in his wedding arrangements. Hence the American people have become exceedingly beautiful [*gratified simpering in the corner reserved for Transatlantic beauties*]. Then the facilities for divorce presented in the United States are an important factor in the beautification process [*How deliciously improper, my dear!*], giving the people free scope to follow their own personality in the quest of their universal [*So profound, isn't it?*]. Love is really at the bottom of it all; not money-bags or race, but love."

To the superficial reader it might seem that this fine sentiment is in conflict with the previous statement that romance has passed out of American life. But the apparent self-contradiction shows how completely the lecturer has absorbed the spirit of the philosopher. The views which Plato puts forward in an early dialogue were not always those he propounded in a subsequent one, and this inconsistency, which used to exercise the commentators, is properly regarded as a proof of the undiminished receptiveness of his mind and unabated accessibility to new ideas. But Dr. Reich has gone one better than Plato—who (so far as we can gather from the pagination of good old Stephanus) never held two contradictory theories at the same moment. There were questions on which he hesitated between opposite opinions and committed himself to neither. Dr. Reich commits himself to both. This, no doubt, he does on the Platonic principle of "following the argument whithersoever it may lead us". Hitherto we had interpreted this to mean that the philosopher should shrink from no conclusions that might be forced on him by the facts. The modern and improved gloss is that you may invent any general statements which will chime in with your theme. Certainly it gives an enlarged freedom to the Higher Speculation.

It is gratifying to find that our Hungarian guest has quite a high opinion of Shakespeare. "But Homer is greater than Shakespeare, though there are some qualities in Shakespeare which are superior to anything the Greeks have written." And Homer "is so artistic". Was ever such balderdash? It is bad enough that a grown man should talk the trash before an audience of educated persons. But to send it to the printer and not to strike it out from the proof argues, we hope, an excessive contempt for the understanding of the English upper classes. If this is the sort of stuff that Dr. Reich hopes to sell, it is not surprising that he recommends us not to commence the education of our boys till they are well on in their 'teens. The worst of it is that he is a clever man—who might turn out respectable work if he gave himself a chance. There is truth, if there is also clap-trap, in some of his most tiresome paragraphs. Take the following, which illustrates both qualities. "The Armada made Shakespeare, and not the bump of the phrenologist, just as Salamis made Æschylus and Sophocles; it was the Civil War that made Edgar Allan Poe; behind Chopin was the agony of Poland, and behind Napoleon the French Revolution." The whole theory is demonstrably misleading because it dwells on one side only of a complicated problem, yet the aspect on which Dr. Reich prefers to insist would suggest many useful and stimulating ideas. It would, we believe, be equally easy to compile a list of great and enduring names in literature and art whose bearers stood almost defiantly aloof from the general influences of their period and whose work bears no reflex of the generation in which they led a detached and superior existence. For instance, there was

Aristotle—but, perhaps, we may be trenching on ground which Dr. Reich has pegged out for next season. Nevertheless, we are ready to admit that the point of view which he has taken up is legitimate, and, if he chose to think before he published, he might produce a book which would be worth glancing at.

There is no limit to his random assertions. Arguing that a mother's influence should be extended till her son has reached sixteen or seventeen, he declares that it is for want of it that "so many" men marry wives older than themselves. "A young man when he is twenty or twenty-five comes and says he is going to marry a girl eight or ten years older than he is, but she is such a sweet girl. Because he has never been satisfied with the love of a mother, and he wants some one older than himself to give him that love. The mother not having done her duty, she lets him go, and so he goes astray." What drivell! And what are we to think about such ridiculous remarks as that "French novels are seldom intense" or that "Imperialism is unfavourable to literature" or that "in England love is absolutely mute" or that "woman is in the thirteenth century while man is in the twentieth" or that Byron's Don Juan was "never loved by a woman"? A tedious tirade against teetotalers winds up with the inevitable reference to "ancient history". The Carthaginians, we learn, were nearly absolute teetotalers, yet the Romans destroyed them. "Neither a Hannibal nor a Hamilcar could save them." Perhaps a motor-car might have done the trick! The reference to that wonderful invention—which takes rank along with wireless telegraphy, Röntgen rays, and Christian Science—raises the question of a speed-limit in which so many English men and women are vividly interested. Plato would have pointed out that speed was not absolute but relative, and that a pace which might be excessive for a public omnibus would be slow for an electric brougham which was conveying a lady disciple from a late luncheon in Eaton Square to a philosophic séance in Brook Street—but we are dropping into Dr. Reich's manner, which appears to be the adaptation of cheap learning to the requirements of smart journalism. And smart journalism has the same relation to life as Dr. Reich to Plato.

TACITUS AS HISTORIAN.

"Tacitus and other Roman Studies." By Gaston Boissier. Translated by W. G. Hutchison. London: Constable. 1906. 6s. net.

THE complaint has been advanced that, in spite of recent political events, not all Englishmen can speak French. Probably the case might be put more strongly: there are some Englishmen at least who cannot read French with facility. Until this defect has been remedied, English translations of French books will continue to be required: and we must therefore be grateful to Mr. Hutchison for providing us with a version of one of M. Boissier's most recent works. Mr. Hutchison would undoubtedly admit that something must be lost in a translation, especially when the original writer has so much charm of style as has M. Boissier, and when that charm is of that peculiarly French type which defies reproduction. If consequently we advise all those students who can do so to read M. Boissier in the original, no offence is intended to Mr. Hutchison, whose translation is readable and accurate, and will lead many to work at the subject who would be deterred by a French book.

This volume contains four essays: the first, occupying more than half the whole work, deals with Tacitus as an historian, the others with subjects connected with the same period of the early Empire. These last three studies contain much instruction and not a little entertainment. The Roman "Schools of Declamation" are described with admirable point and refreshing humour: while no one who has noticed the tendency to estimate increasingly the influence of these schools on early Christian literature can doubt that the subject is worth study. The essay on "The Roman Journal" helps us to realise how a world-wide empire managed to survive without newspapers. The discussion of the

poet Martial is a specimen of that lively and illuminating literary criticism which is familiar to readers of "L'opposition sous les Césars", "Le Fin du Paganisme", and others of M. Boissier's writings.

Most attention will, however, be paid to the study of Tacitus, which gives its name to the volume. It is unnecessary to say that this essay also contains many points of detail set out with clearness and force, and that it shows an intimate knowledge of Tacitus and of his period on every page. But it is not quite easy to discover what M. Boissier considers himself to have proved. He has a firm belief in the merits of Tacitus as an historian, and he endeavours in some sense to rehabilitate his credit against attacks. Yet, as M. Boissier himself says, the attacks on Tacitus have been very numerous and miscellaneous: we may add that they have been far from consistent with each other, and it is therefore very important to know exactly what the charge is to which a reply is being made. Our author seems to have a reluctance to mention modern names. He speaks of Voltaire, Linguet, and Napoleon: but these are not the critics whom he is answering. He speaks of French and German writers generally, during the time of the Second Empire, and particularly of their attempts to rehabilitate the Emperor Tiberius. Surely it would have been well to be more definite at this point: since a glance at the German version of Ihne's essay on Tiberius (originally published in English, and, characteristically enough for England, forgotten until a German writer translated it into German and edited it with extensive notes more than thirty years later) is enough to show that the critics answer each other's arguments, without, however, leaving the impression that none of those arguments is to be believed. Tacitus has been exposed to attacks, some of which are obviously unfair, while others require much more serious consideration. Is M. Boissier concerned to show that Tacitus is after all our best authority, where we have got him? Surely he would carry most scholars with him here: Suetonius and Dio Cassius, useful though they may be in points of detail, tend on the whole to show how moderate and careful Tacitus is in the treatment of his evidence. Velleius Paterculus wrote too early and his expressions are too general to be of much help for this purpose. Some critics have spoken vaguely of correcting Tacitus from inscriptions; but, great as may be the value of the inscriptions, especially for the reign of Claudius, they could only help us at the best in small isolated points, and it is impossible that they should supply the place of a continuous narrative. Does M. Boissier mean that Tacitus gives us a complete history of the Empire as we moderns would like to have it written? Clearly not; since M. Boissier insists on the incompleteness of the account, on the omission of almost all reference to the provinces, on the concentration of interest on petty affairs in Rome. Does he mean to maintain that Tacitus is a real historian, with a real conception of history, and not a "pettifogging annalist", or "a mere barrister"? If so, we may be grateful to M. Boissier for stating an obvious truth with such vigour, but we need not stop to reinforce his arguments. Does he mean, once more, that, even where Tacitus is not specially interested (for instance, in his accounts of the duller parts of a military campaign), he is always lucid? M. Boissier has denied this and illustrated his denial in some detail. The real question at issue would ultimately seem to be this: whether we can trust Tacitus' judgment on individual emperors. It is an old question: perhaps more interesting than vital. When once it has been realised that the machinery of the Empire worked to a large extent independently of the personal direction of the emperor, the question of a particular emperor's character becomes a question of individual historical justice rather than general historical importance. When the question has thus been narrowed down, we may doubt whether we are entirely in agreement with M. Boissier. It may be admitted that Tacitus was not really a practical republican at heart and that he did not look upon the restoration of the Republic as possible, without ceasing to feel that he may well have retained a prejudice against the Empire and especially against its founders. Literary criticism

may convince us that the views of Cluvius Rufus, the elder Pliny, and Fabius Rusticus, different as these three men were in origin and career, as to the character of Nero, must have agreed too closely to allow for the possibility of a rival contemporary tradition to the one which we find in Tacitus. A comparison of the Lyons inscription with the summary given by Tacitus may convince us that here at least Tacitus has not been unfair to Claudius, whose tedious and pedantic speech has become the epigrammatic survey of history with which we are familiar. The "Agricola" will show us that Tacitus is careful to bring no definite charges even against Domitian, though it is difficult to resist the feeling that the horror with which the reign of Domitian inspired him may have influenced his account of the reign of Tiberius, to which it bore considerable superficial resemblance. Is not the question in danger of being misstated? Why should we expect Tacitus to exhibit the same degree of prejudice for or against all the emperors, any more than we expect to find an English writer showing the same degree of dislike for all the English kings? Each emperor must be considered singly: and as regards Tiberius, the balance of opinion inclines strongly to a more favourable view than the one given by Tacitus. When all the absurdities of the anti-Tacitean critics have been set aside (as they are by Mr. Furneaux and M. Boissier), there remains the conviction that the conclusions of Tacitus do not always follow from his facts. Perhaps Tacitus would have been surprised if he could have heard the debate whether his epigrams were to be taken quite seriously. We can imagine his indignant reply that he did not write history for ignorant or unintelligent readers. On one point at least we may feel satisfied: the extraordinary cleverness of Tacitus is in itself a guarantee of security as to his facts. His ingenuity would have been sufficient to enable him to put the worst construction on the best action, had he desired to do this. In no case, therefore, was he obliged to alter the facts for the sake of a theory, and in this respect at any rate we may agree to trust him, whatever our opinion may be of him in other ways.

THE SPORTING DOG.

"Modern Dogs (Sporting Division)." By Rawdon B. Lee. 2 vols. Third Edition. London: Horace Cox. 1906. 21s. net.

WE are not surprised that this work should have reached a third edition, for a really good textbook on sporting dogs must appeal to the very large public interested in the subject. To say that these volumes are without fault would be to palter with the truth, but they are on the whole most comprehensive, and in their main features accurate. It seems to us rather strange that no mention is made in the chapter on bloodhounds of the pack hunted by Lord Cardigan from Savernake for we believe nearly seven years. It is true that there were only about two couple of bench hounds in the pack, but they showed excellent sport in hunting outlying deer which had escaped from Savernake Forest. This omission is perhaps intentional on the part of the author, who if we remember rightly had by no means the best of a somewhat heated newspaper controversy with the owner a few years ago. Mr. Lee rightly mentions the very fine pack of otter hounds which was formed by the late Lord Hill, and afterwards hunted by his brother the Hon. Geoffrey Hill. We often followed this pack and can vouch for their astonishing keenness and freedom from riot. Mr. Hill told us one day walking down to draw, that he thought the only riot his hounds would run and speak to was a muskovy duck. As if to prove his words at the soonest possible moment we had not drawn more than half a mile of water when nearly the whole pack took up a strong drag right away from the river, ran it about a quarter of a mile across some fields, and marked an old muskovy duck sitting on her eggs in a hollow tree. We must protest against a statement made by the author when dealing with deerhounds that "the red deer is now mostly killed in

drives, a sort of battue in which the shooter can sit at ease until the deer come along to be shot at in a somewhat ignominious manner". Now we can state with confidence that for one forest in which driving deer is habitually practised there are at the very least fifty where the stag is killed by fair stalking. Of the chapters in the first volume we consider that the one on the Borzoi is the most instructive and interesting. We hope with the author that this magnificent hound will long maintain his present popularity, though in this country, through no fault of his own, he can scarcely be considered a sporting dog. We should extremely like to see him tried at wolf on the prairies of Western Canada where he would find full scope for his sporting instincts. In the chapter on Pointers the author mentions probably one of the most successful breeders of this class as Mr. Webb Edge of "Stretley" instead of Strelley—which shows rather careless correction of proofs in a third edition. Certainly the most interesting bit of this chapter is the description of the Field Trial heat between "Romp's Baby" and "Revel" in 1882, which is quoted from the letter of an eye-witness. In comparing the merits of the pointer and the setter for work on the moor the author does not mention one serious disadvantage under which the former labours—viz. his very tender feet. We have seen a team of pointers incapacitated for work for several days after being run over hard ground and burnt heather. Here the setter has decidedly the best of it. Of the remaining chapters we like those on the various classes of spaniels best. The author forgets to mention that the great drawback of the amber is his disinclination to face thick gorse or thorn and for this reason we prefer the Sussex or cocker, both of which are as Mr. Lee says merry workers. We confess we do not understand why terriers are not included in the sporting division. Mr. Wardle's illustrations as a whole are very good. It would be difficult we think to portray more perfect dogs than the pointer facing p. 1, vol. ii. and the brace of English setters p. 89. All the drawings of spaniels are excellent.

SCISSORS AND SNOBBERY.

"The Boyhood of a Great King." By A. M. Broadley. London and New York: Harpers. 1906. 10s. 6d. net.

WE all know, and we all admire, the King's devotion to duty and the ability he brings to its discharge. This, and a good deal more, it is possible to tell in the accurate and decorous language of history. But to describe his Majesty as "a wonder-working personality" (as the author of this precious compilation does) is nonsense, and servile, flunkeyish nonsense too. The sentiment of affectionate respect for the Royal Family, and the interest taken by all classes in the daily lives of its members, are feelings of which we know the value, and which we are glad to see excited by all legitimate means. But the attempt to exploit this sentiment of loyalty for commercial purposes has always repelled us, and always will. Overdone loyalty is as bad a form of snobbery as any that Thackeray pilloried. The boyhood of King Edward was as commonplace and uneventful as the infancy of all kings must be. There is a great deal more to be told about the boyhood of any ordinary lad at Eton and Oxford than about that of any Prince of Wales. All that we ought to know about the infancy of the Prince of Wales, we already know, from various publications. Mr. A. M. Broadley has added nothing to our knowledge, and has indeed merely armed himself with a paste-pot and a pair of scissors, and made up a book out of cuttings from "Punch", the "Greville Memoirs", "The Private Life of Queen Victoria", the "Queen's Diary and Journals", &c. This stitching together of stale tattle from the Royal nursery may be "good business": it is not an undertaking which enlists our sympathy. Mr. Broadley's record as ex-Indian Civilian, ex-barrister, ex-journalist, and ex-company promoter, is well known. This volume does not alter our estimate of the writer or of the man.

NOVELS.

"A Son of Arvon." By Gwendolen Pryce. London: Unwin. 1906. 6s.

The scene of this story is laid beneath the mountains of Carnarvonshire. The plot is simple and turns on the tricks whereby a miser keeps his nephew the true owner of a farm out of his property for many years, making him work for him as a servant. Matters drift on until a drunken sea carpenter, a kinsman of the miser, appears on the farm and essays blackmail. The result is that the unlucky nephew is driven to London, where an attempt is made by a leader in the musical world to exploit his magnificent vocal powers. Dwelyn, so the young singer is called, however sighs for the mountain side, all the more as the squire of the parish (a capital fellow, by the way, who unites with the profession of a landowner the politics of a socialist) is seeking to make a match of it with Sydney, the maid whom he has left behind him on the farm. In the end a terrible doom falls on the miser and the villain, Sydney leaves the amiable squire free to make a more suitable match, and at the close we see her and her lover (now happily wedded) reigning on their freehold and almost scornfully refusing the suggestion of the man of music that Dwelyn should give the benefit of his voice to the world. Dwelyn prefers the farm and Carnarvonshire concerts and eisteddfods. In this he is typical of the older-fashioned Welsh folk; but we fear that the temptation would have been too strong for the sort of Welshmen whom the intermediate schools and university colleges are educating or philistinising. Any way Miss Pryce in these pages as in her former book "John Jones Curate", has done a useful work in setting down the characteristics of a Wales that is slowly but surely vanishing. Of that old Wales the curate John Rowlands is indeed typical. This Wales be it noted talks little of politics, is not interested in education; but feels keenly about religion and song. The most brilliant thing however about this graceful prose idyl is the accurate manner in which the Welsh vernacular style of conversation is reproduced in English.

"Richard Baldock." By Archibald Marshall. London: Rivers. 1906. 6s.

Mr. Marshall tells a quiet story in a quiet manner. Hardly anything that can be called an incident diversifies his pages, and the love-making, which comes late in the book, is treated conventionally and is devoid of thrills. This novel is one which could safely be put in the hands of the most nervous invalid. Thanks to a certain skill in the delineation of every-day characters, Mr. Marshall succeeds in persuading us to feel a genuine and growing interest in Richard Baldock's fortunes. Richard is one of those plain, good-tempered fellows whom one likes instinctively. He is placed in a trying position from his earliest years, being the only child of a widower, a man whose pronounced religious opinions make him regard tenderness as weakness and levity as a crime. Richard is a dutiful son, but is sorely tried by his father's fanaticism. The main concern of the narrative is with the clash of their temperaments and wills. Happily for Richard (and for the reader) several humorous persons in a lower station crossed his path, and prevented his boyhood from being insufferably dreary. But Baldock, senior, remains dismal to the end.

"Joseph Vance." By W. De Morgan. London: Heinemann. 1906. 6s.

The secret of money-making is to employ competent labour, and on no account to do anything yourself—so Joseph Vance's father, a man of ingenuity and shrewdness though quite illiterate, having come into possession of an old signboard belonging originally to a certain Dance Builder, immediately sets up as an employer of labour, without capital, or any special knowledge of building, and in time becomes a wealthy man. His son, the teller of the story, develops from a precocious, sharp-witted, rather vulgar little boy into a scholar and an inventor, though, for a mathematical student, his arithmetic is weak. In 1850, when the

story begins, he says he was eight years old, and in 1859 he speaks of being "between nineteen and twenty", while "Miss Lossie" his adopted sister and ideal, who was originally six years his senior, is described as being twenty-four. The first part of the book is quite absorbing, a little reminiscent of Dickens in detail and in method, and an excellent study of cockney life in the 'sixties. The story pretends to be the genuine autobiography of an elderly man, who lived in Upper Tooting or thereabouts when there were cottages and fields and even countryfied villas, and there is certainly much that is old-fashioned in the appreciations of life, the criticisms of art and literature, and in the sense of humour, displayed in ponderous witticisms and elaborate phrases. It is a very long book, after the model of old-fashioned novels, and has somewhat pretentious contents headings to each chapter. The style is strong and expressive, but very often clumsy and over-elaborate and would-be humorous. The philosophical and religious ideas expressed and discussed at great length are commonplace and valueless, the strength and interest of the book lies in the fresh original observation of lower-middle-class life; in its shrewd characterisation and life-like dialogue and incidents.

"The House of Souls." By Arthur Machen. London: Grant Richards. 1906. 6s.

Mr. Machen adds three new stories to the contents of two earlier volumes, and introduces the collection by a preface which is perhaps the best thing in the book. We remember reading "The Great God Pan" when it first appeared, and discussing it with brother-undergraduates. Most of us thought that the story was interesting chiefly as illustrating the difficulties which beset an ambitious English writer who wishes to describe transcendental beastliness. Probably we were right. Mr. Machen's literary monomania takes the form of postulating that behind the veil of matter, in the centre of the material universe, resides an obscene and terrible power, the revelation of which brings to mortals infamy and madness. This pretty fancy is hardly relevant to his spirited attack on Puritanism, for the Puritans had a lively sense of the demonic. As regards the execution of the stories, Mr. Machen has style, and a talent for the fantastic (though "The Three Impostors" is in its scheme reminiscent of Stevenson), but he has not the power of creating horror. One feels that he is carving gargoyles (to borrow his phrase) just for fun, and his readers' blood will not run cold, though possibly their gorges may rise.

"A Manse Rose." By Cyril Grey. London: Cassell. 1906. 3s. 6d.

The atmosphere of "John Halifax Gentleman" broods over this book. Mr. Grey evidently knows a good deal about the troubles which followed the Great Peace in the manufacturing towns of Scotland—the era of Thistlewood and Ings—and has a certain sense of character. But, though the riots are fairly vivid, the love affairs of the minister's lovely daughter are insipid. She was sought by a virtuous mechanic, and by the profligate son of a manufacturer (whose profligacy was curiously mild), and no more need be said on this score. But the public flogging of an innocent man on a charge of attempted murder looks like an actual episode, and anyone who wants to know what life was like in towns of the class of Galashiels some eighty years ago may discover matter of interest in these pages. Further, it is refreshing in these callous times to find "a miscreant who quailed before the might of truth as it expressed itself alike in the look and words of this good man".

"That Ambitious She." By Lucie Simpson. London: Greening. 1906. 6s.

If Clementine Denham, "the ambitious she", were a satire on the modern self-seeking girl, Miss Simpson could be congratulated on a clever piece of work. But unfortunately she appears quite unconscious that her heroine is odious, very snobbish and utterly selfish. Miss Simpson's complete ignorance of the "social"

life which she delights in portraying is equalled by her complete illiteracy. She describes the wife of an ex-ambassador who has been "knighted" as Lady Louisa Worth, although before her marriage she was merely Miss Denham; and Clementine talks of one of her friends as the Hon. Rundall, who is, by the way, described as being "clean-shaven, yet dissatisfied-looking". The style is usually slipshod, and as pretentious and vulgar as the subject-matter.

"Anthony Britten." By Herbert Macilwaine. London: Constable. 1906. 6s.

If Mr. Macilwaine were not quite so strenuous, he would be more effective. He has considerable gifts. Sympathy, imagination, intense feeling for colour and atmosphere are his. But with all these qualities he somehow manages to leave the reader unmoved owing to a certain laboriousness of method which renders his work heavy. There is much admirable stuff in "Anthony Britten". It is a story of a by no means unattractive character of whom most of us know a prototype—a man who is prompted by instinct to do something in the world and who does not know exactly what that something is. The author presents to us the somewhat unusual standpoint of a man who having been stripped of all illusions in the rough and tumble of colonial life returns to look with a contemptuous curiosity at the fabric of English civilisation. As a character-study the book is a noteworthy achievement.

"King Peter." By Dion Clayton Calthrop. London: Duckworth. 1906. 6s. net.

Enjoyment of this story depends, we should say, not only on a reader's temperament but on his mood of the moment. Its aim is somewhat like that of Mr. Anthony Hope's "King's Mirror", but "King Peter" is not autobiographical, and the period of the drama is, more or less, the Middle Ages. The fighting does not seem quite to tally with the psychology, and there is something of affectation about the book. But anyone who goes half-way to meet the author will find entertainment in this record of a boy-king, though there is nothing very original in the construction, and the sentimental climax is forced. The influence of Mr. Henry Harland—but Mr. Henry Harland on his best side—seems to count for something in the romance.

"Jimmy Quixote." By Tom Gallon. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1906. 6s.

Mr. Tom Gallon is obsessed by Charles Dickens. Every book that comes from his pen serves further to emphasise his devotion to the methods of his master. He revels in quaint personalities. Almost all his characters have "kinks" in their brains. The good ones are very good; the bad ones are very bad; the eccentric ones are very eccentric. Mr. Gallon writes with unflinching good humour. He is a cheery optimist of the most human kind. He is humorous and pathetic, grave and gay by turns. His stories are crammed with incident. Jimmy Quixote is eminently loveable. He is a distinct creation.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The Battle of Mukden." With Eight Maps and Two Appendices showing the Composition of the Two Armies. By Karl von Donat. Authorised Translation. London: Hugh Rees. 1906. 6s. net.

This excellent little book may be cordially commended to our young officers, and to those elder ones who have arrived in high places somewhat prematurely. More especially so the comments on the battle from the pen of Lieut.-General von Caemmerer, which form its concluding chapter. In his opinion the experiences of this great battle as well as the whole course of the Russo-Japanese war have most admirably confirmed the justice of the German Service Regulations. If what is to be seen annually at manoeuvres is however to be taken as any guide we venture to think that the Lieutenant-General's confidence is more patriotic than well founded. At actual operations shock tactics, often of a very pronounced type, are still the most prominent feature of German methods. General von Caemmerer appears a little uneasy on this matter himself, for in spite of his confident assertion at the beginning of the chapter he concludes it with a note of warning to his countrymen, "we would

greatly err if we imagined that the spirit of shock tactics is a thing of the past in the German army. It still lurks below the surface and is only waiting for an opportunity to break forth". Whatever may be the case in the German army, in ours the opposite tendency is one of the less valuable legacies which the South African war has bequeathed to us. We have of late carried wide extensions and enveloping movements to a point which may land us in disaster if we have to face an opponent with greater discipline and tactical skill than the Boers. In one direction especially may we profitably note the advice of our German mentor. While we make our main effort on our opponents' flank, we must see to it that what we somewhat unfortunately term a "holding attack" must be a real one, and not a feeble demonstration. Unless he be resolutely attacked in front as well as on the flank, the enemy will readily recognise which is the main and which the secondary effort. He will take his precautions accordingly, and the task of the flanking movement will become as difficult as possible. If the defence be not precluded by vigorous action on the front from reinforcing the flank to assail the latter may be every whit as onerous as though it had originally been intended to carry the former. Such lessons are here well brought out, and the letterpress is supplemented by maps and sketches in positive profusion. The book is well got up, and should be studied.

"The Fox." By T. F. Dale. (Fur, Feather, and Fin Series.) London: Longmans. 1906. 5s.

It is always a pleasure to read books in this series. They are well written, edited, and illustrated. As to the letterpress of the book before us, Mr. Dale has given us of his best. It is in short a capital monograph, and will be read with interest we are sure not only by those who delight in the sport of fox-hunting, but also by every lover of natural history. The very vexed question of the cruelty or otherwise of hunting the fox is treated by the author with most commendable moderation, and whether we agree with his conclusions or not it will certainly be admitted that he has stated his case logically and well. Perhaps the chapter on the fox as an outlaw is the most instructive in the book. It is not strange that with every man's hand against him nearly the whole world over the fox has of necessity become wily—if he had remained the ingenuous animal he no doubt once was he would have become as extinct as the dodo. Mr. Dale quotes Lord Granville Gordon as saying that some deer forests "crawl with foxes". Now we know a good many of our forests and can conscientiously affirm that in these days at all events foxes

(Continued on page 120.)

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are by no means as plentiful as they were. Few seem to have noticed how full of fun and play grown-up foxes are in places where they are rarely disturbed. We well remember a notable instance of this when stalking in Inverness-shire. Two small stags were feeding close to a little hillock and behind this hillock was a fox curled up fast asleep. He woke as he heard the stags moving and looked round the edge. At the same moment one of the stags saw him and jumped up in the air, trotted a few paces away and then slowly walked back to where the fox was hiding. Mr. Reynard dodged round the hillock and appeared to the astonished stags just where he was not expected. This time both stags jumped up in the air, trotted off and again came back to see what animal it was in hiding. The fox crawled back to his original place and for the third time the deer pretended to be desperately frightened. We watched the game of hide and seek played for some considerable time; it varied but little in detail, but it was all extremely amusing. It would be difficult to say which party enjoyed the game the more, but if it were left to us we should say the fox. For obvious reasons we miss a chapter which has always been a feature of this series, viz. that on "cookery". Mr. Innes Shand has not been called upon this time and we fancy that even he would not have found it easy to tell us of a good way to cook a fox. The illustrations by Mr. A. Thorburn are mostly excellent. The frontispiece and the vignette on the title-page are delightfully drawn—indeed, with one exception, that facing p. 63, it would be hard to find fault. We must however seriously protest against the one in question. A sinking fox as this is supposed to be is not the sleek, full-brushed animal before us, but a muddled, bedraggled wretch hardly recognisable with the well-groomed fox we viewed away at the beginning of the run. Mr. G. D. Giles' drawing is excellent.

"Chronicles of London." Edited with Introduction and Notes by Charles Lethbridge Kingsford. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1905. 10s. 6d. net.

The student of history has at present advantages which were denied to his fellows of a previous generation, since within the past ten years a great number of very important authorities, which were hitherto only available in manuscript in the British Museum, or the Ashmolean, the Bodleian, and other libraries, have been carefully edited, and published at a comparatively low price. The latest of these valuable aids to historical research and study is the "Chronicles of London", edited by Mr. C. L. Kingsford M.A. Read in the quiet of one's study by the open window, such chronicles become much more interesting than when investigated amidst the precise regulations and restrictions of a public library. The chronicles which Mr. Kingsford has gathered together in one volume date back to the end of the twelfth century, beginning with the first year of Richard I. (1189), and extend, though by no means uninterruptedly, to 1516. They consist of a series of chronicles by different hands, the majority of which are of extreme interest, throwing a curiously intimate light on the manners and customs of the English people in the Middle Ages and elucidating some of the minor and more obscure points in our national history. The volume is not only admirably edited, but its contents are linked together so as to form in some measure a consecutive history, which supplements Stow, Hall and Holinshed, although Stow derived much of his information from some other unknown chronicle, which is now lost or still unclassified. The student must be very circumspect as to the manner in which he uses the information he gleams from these "Chronicles", as the dates are often inaccurate, though the facts are, in the main, correct. Mr. Kingsford's scholarly introduction and notes will, however, aid him very materially to avoid missing his way in the labyrinth of rather loosely put information in which the ancient chroniclers conveyed their facts.

"Constantinople." Painted by Warwick Goble. Described by A. van Millingen. London: Black. 1906. 20s. net.

We imagine that in most of the volumes comprised in this series the letterpress is merely intended as a humble companion to the illustrations, but, whatever the original intention may have been, in this instance the distinguished feature is the writing, the pictures are merely accessories and too often not highly serviceable even in that capacity. They convey little or no impression of the distinctive charm of Constantinople to the observant eye, and that is the purpose such illustrations should serve. Too often these attempts to reproduce the colouring of the original ends in mere blotches most difficult to resolve into a coherent landscape. The fault may not lie with the artist; we are often inclined to attribute it to a desire of the public to possess something gaudy and brilliant. The distant landscapes here are generally daubs, the street scenes are better, while the interiors and the portraits are good. The distant views in and around Constantinople are superb; therefore the gaucherie of these productions is the more deplorable. But we have only praise for the admirable chapters of history and description supplied by Dr. van Millingen. No one is more qualified by reading and experience to deal with the subject, his intimate

acquaintance with Constantinople and its history has been gained by many years' professorship at Robert College and a close and loving study of the part along with an intimate acquaintance with the Turks and Eastern Christians at home. The sketch he gives is brilliant and accurate; it would form an admirable introduction for any traveller intending to visit the city who should complete it by Mr. Hutton's fuller and more detailed monograph. To a certain extent Dr. van Millingen admits a great advance in the education of Turkish ladies, though he does not endorse the wild extravagance of Pierre Loti's latest romance. He is of course fully alive to the unique attraction of Constantinople, its historical and political significance.

After a certain age not everybody can afford to keep his or her birthday. But there is no reason why we should not make a careful record of the birthdays of other people of both sexes. An autograph album, birthday and guest book called "Whisperings from the Great" (Frowde: at various prices from 1 guinea net) which Miss Constance A. Meredyth has compiled, is quite the thing for this purpose. For each day in the year Miss Meredyth gives at least five quotations from English and French authors. Her reading must have been wide and delightful. She "lays under contribution", as the euphuists of the press love to put it, nearly all the English poets of value. If you were born on 22 December, you will in this volume find yourself in the company of Shelley, Alfred Austin and Shakespeare, with one or two other stars of lesser magnitude such as Dibden: is your birthday—to take another date at random—11 November? then your name can be set down opposite quotations from Coleridge, R. le Gallienne, Eric Mackay and Tennyson. The print and paper and the bouquet of the binding are worthy of some of the poetry. Surely everybody who can afford to remember the birthdays of friends would wish to buy this remarkable volume.

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The fifth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Raphael Tuck and Sons, Limited, was held on Monday, at Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Adolph Tuck (the chairman and managing director of the Company).

The Secretary (Mr. J. W. Bretherton) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

Mr. Adolph Tuck said he ventured to think the shareholders would again consider the balance-sheet acceptable. The total profits for the last five years of the business previous to its being taken over by the pre-ent Company amounted to £192,741 os. 7d., or a yearly average of £38,542 10s. 14d., each individual year exhibiting an increase in the profits over those of the previous year. The profits for the five years from May 1, 1901, to April 30 last—being the first five financial years of this Company—had been £250,744 3s. 10d., an amount equalling half the entire capital, and giving an average profit for each year of £50,144 12s. 9d., representing an excess of upwards of 30 per cent. over the previous five years' profits. Each year had again shown its small, but regular quota of increase over that of its predecessor. Another satisfactory feature would be found in the circumstance that the fluctuations of the various departments contributing to the yearly profit total had been comparatively trifling, proving not only the continued soundness of the business as a whole, but of every one of its component parts. The premier department, which embraced Christmas and New Year cards, with its kindred branches of birthday cards, Easter cards, text cards, and the like, continued to monopolise one of the leading places in the departmental returns and their attendant profits. At no time had their picture postcards stood higher than at present in the estimation of the public all over the world. Not since the introduction by them of picture postcards into the British Empire eight years ago had they done anything more likely to tend to the still greater popularity and permanency of the picture postcard than by the introduction of their fourth and greatest postcard competition, with prizes amounting to £6,666. In every other department of the Company's business there had been expansion and progress, rendering further additions to their premises necessary. After protracted negotiations, the directors had succeeded in arranging for building an addition to the left wing of Raphael House. It was now approaching completion, and it would give the Company a small, compact warehouse of seven floors. At the last annual meeting he referred to the establishment of a separate branch of the Company in Berlin, consequent on their growing trade in the German and Austrian Empires. To ensure the smooth and safe working of this branch the directors were advised that a separate limited company, registered under the laws of the German Empire, would be advantageous to the interests of the Company, and this change had recently been effected. The major portion of the shares was held by this Company, the balance being taken up and paid for by the resident managing director of the German Company, Mr. Leonard Wohlgemuth, who had been their trusted foreign representative for over fifteen years. There had been a considerable increase during the past twelve months in the colonial demand for almost all the Company's productions. The Company had at their disposal available liquid assets of considerably over £50,000 in excess of the actual requirements for carrying on their business. The directors proposed the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year on the ordinary shares, making 3 per cent. for the year. With the additions now proposed the reserves would stand at £67,714. He moved the adoption of the report.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, in seconding the motion, observed that the dividend of 8 per cent. had been paid by the Company from the beginning, while they had built up reserves which he thought very few companies of their age could show. Not only had they their large general trade, but also three separate foreign "roots," each of which was flourishing on its own account, one in New York, one in Paris, and one—the youngest, but probably the most flourishing—in Berlin.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Child moved and Mr. Bentinck seconded a resolution in favour of £1,000 extra being voted to the directors—a proposal which did not meet with the approval of the chair, but was unanimously supported.

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£25	on 1st October, 1906,
£25	on 1st November, 1906.

£100

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Particulars relating to the population, revenue and expenditure of the City of Tokyo are given in a letter from the Consul-General of Japan in London, a copy of which is appended.

The Loan is repayable at par on 1st August, 1936, but the Municipality reserves the right to redeem at par, all or any of the Bonds on or at any time after 1st August, 1916, on giving six months' previous notice. Partial redemption to be effected by drawings in the usual manner at the office of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, London.

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4 Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., and Branches; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31 Lombard Street, London, E.C.; and Messrs. Panmure Gordon and Co., Hatton Court, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

27th July, 1906.

Copy of letter from the Consul-General of Japan in London.

Consulate-General of Japan,
1 Broad Street Place,
Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.,
25th July, 1906.

To

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED,
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THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to your letter of even date, I have much pleasure in certifying to the correctness of the figures relative to the City of Tokyo, hereinafter set forth, which I have obtained from the Imperial Japanese Government, viz:—

Population	1,969,000
Estimated Revenue for 1906-7 (including Balance brought forward)	Yen 7,163,000
Estimated Expenditure for 1906-7... ..	„ 4,922,000
Average Annual Revenues for last five years (including balances brought forward)	„ 8,540,000
Average Annual Expenditure for the last five years	„ 5,090,000
Total Debt of the City of Tokyo	„ 5,505,000

The aggregate average revenues, derived from the Water Rates, Special Duty Tax, Rents of City Properties, etc., from which the sum of Yen 974,500 is to be specially set aside in each year for the service of the 5 per cent. Sterling Loan for £1,500,000 have amounted for the past five years to Yen 1,040,000 per annum.

The authority of the Imperial Japanese Government, as required by law, for the raising of this Loan, was given to the Municipality on the 18th July, 1906.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) MINOZI ARAKAWA,
H.I.J.M.'s Consul-General.

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